

PA blasts Israel over Jerusalem land seizure

News agencies

THE Palestinian Authority yesterday called for an urgent session of the Arab League in Cairo to discuss Israel's plans to take control of Arab land in Jerusalem for Jewish housing and a police station.

In a statement issued after its weekly cabinet meeting in Gaza, it also appealed for help from the United States, Russia, Norway, and the UN Security Council to reverse Israel's decision.

"This constitutes the highest form of terrorism against the Palestinian people, which really threatens their existence," Saeb Erekat, in charge of local government in the PA said.

On Friday, Arafat asked UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to take measures against the Israeli move.

"We decided to follow up this issue with the co-sponsors of the peace process, the United States and Russia, and with Egypt, Norway and the permanent members of the UN Security Council," the Authority said in its statement.

Erekat, echoing comments Arafat made on Thursday, called the Israeli decision a flagrant violation of the Israel-PLO peace deal signed in 1993.

According to the Jerusalem Municipality's housing plans, some 4,400 dunams (1,100 acres) of Arab-owned land are to be expropriated to make way for the expansion of Jewish housing around the capital.

A leaflet issued by Hamas demanded the PA pull out of talks with Israel.

"This Zionist crime represents one of the destructive and catastrophic results of the Oslo-Cairo agreements," Hamas said.

"We hold the Palestinian Authority directly responsible for this crime and we ask it to pull out immediately from the negotiations with the Zionist enemy," it said.

But Nabil Shaath, a senior Palestinian negotiator and the PA's planning minister, told reporters the confiscation should be dealt with "in a much more practical manner" rather than through a suspension of peace talks.

"We will go to the Islamic Conference, to the Arab League, to His Majesty King Fahd [of Saudi Arabia] and His Majesty King Hassan [of Morocco], the head of the Jerusalem committee [of the Arab League]," he said.

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert reacted angrily on Friday to talk about a new uprising.

"Those who are threatening me with an intifada, I will give them a clear answer with the tools at my disposal," he told Israel Radio.

Rabin appoints long-time ally to replace Sheves

ALON PINKAS

TWO days after announcing the impending departure of Shimon Peres as director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin appointed long-time political ally Zvi Alderoti as Sheves's successor.

The Prime Minister's Office confirmed yesterday that Alderoti accepted Rabin's offer and will be the next director-general as of June 1, pending approval by the Civil Service Commission.

Alderoti, 61, an old-time political ally, has been involved in Rabin's political career in the Labor Party since the 1970s. He is considered a personal friend and confidant of Rabin.

Alderoti has been active in public life since 1959, when he was elected head of the Migdal Ha'emek Local Council. He served several months as a Labor MK in the mid-70s. In 1990 Alderoti was named the chairman of the board of directors of Shechem and oversaw the privatization of the large chain. He was also a director of various companies such as Koor, Bank Tefobot, Elita, Shikun Uftuah, Bezek, and Kupat Holim Clalit.

Challenge to Rabin in '96, Page 2



Hutu refugees line up to register in southern Rwanda after arriving from Kibeho camp. Tutsi residents in background wait to identify murderers responsible for last year's genocide. Story, Page 4.

Netanyahu to Assad: Forget about Golan

SARAH HONIG

LIKUD Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu has been sending messages to Syrian President Hafez Assad via US Secretary of State Warren Christopher, telling Assad that "the Likud will not withdraw from the Golan when we form the next government. Assad can forget about that."

He made the disclosure yesterday to reject rumors that he, too, would be willing to withdraw from the Golan and that therefore there is no rush to complete a deal with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin before the 1996 elections.

"I am certainly not ready to abandon the Golan, and I am going on the record with that as clearly as possible, but this does not mean that a dialogue with Syria cannot continue on other issues," Netanyahu said.

The messages Netanyahu did dispatch to Syria are also seen as connected to the upcoming elections, and are intended to indicate that he, too, plans to maintain some form of dialogue with Syria. To date he has received no reply.

Netanyahu explained yesterday that what he has in mind is seeking more modest goals than a

full overall arrangement with the Syrians, "which at present seems out of reach. Israel wants a contractual peace and full normalization, and the signs emanating from Damascus are that Assad does not want to meet our conditions."

"He, on the other hand, demands full withdrawal from every inch of the Golan, which any sane and responsible Israeli government ought to reject. The practical conclusion seems to be that rather than go for the unattainable maximum, we would perhaps do best to concentrate on arrangements which do not necessitate impossible risks on Israel's part and do not necessitate Syria's agreement to full normalization, which is what Assad is loath to commit himself to."

Netanyahu argues that among the topics which could lead to a limited arrangement with the Syrians would be dealing with the water problems, removing Syria from the list of terror-sponsoring nations, and the status of Syria

in Lebanon.

The Likud, meanwhile, reacted sharply to Rabin's statements yesterday about his plans to further efforts to make peace with Syria during his upcoming meeting with US President Bill Clinton.

The Likud demanded in an official statement last night that Rabin "immediately submit to the Knesset the fully detailed blueprints" of what the Likud contends are "Rabin's plans for a full withdrawal from the entire Golan, which he hopes to push forward and implement via his meeting with Clinton. Behind the ideas Rabin plans to put to Clinton is the full withdrawal rhetoric sounded lately by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres."

Rabin "not only owes the full truth to the Knesset, but his plans ought to be made public as well," the Likud statement says. "New elections must be called prior to any referendum Rabin has promised on the Golan. He will use his technical majority in the Knesset to manipulate things in such a way as to achieve the referendum results he desires."

US report cites increase in terrorism deaths in Israel

HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON

SYRIA, Iran, Iraq, and Libya have again been listed by the US State Department as countries sponsoring terrorism.

Also named in the annual report on global terrorism, released Friday, are North Korea, Cuba, and Sudan. All seven were also cited last year.

The department said Middle East terrorism continued at a "high level" in 1994, with a "significant increase" in casualties within Israel compared with 1993 - 73 as opposed to 14.

But worldwide acts of terrorism dropped 25 percent last year, with the 321 incidents representing "the lowest annual total in 23 years," the report said.

As it is in recent years, the report concluded that Syrian officials have not been directly involved in terrorism.

But it found that while Damascus is "publicly committed" to

the peace process and "has taken steps to restrain" the activities of terrorist groups on its territory, it also "permits Iran to resupply Hizbullah via Damascus."

"Syria continues to provide safe haven and support for several groups that engage in international terrorism," including the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - General Command, Hamas, Islamic Jihad, the Japanese Red Army, and the Kurdish PKK (in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley).

The report said Iran "is still the most active state sponsor of international terrorism and continues to be directly involved in planning and executing terrorist acts."

While trying to improve its im-

age in the West, "Iran continues to use terrorism as ruthlessly as it did under Khomeini."

The report said Hizbullah is Iran's "closest client" which "could well have been responsible" for last summer's bombing of the Jewish center in Buenos Aires. That bombing was said to be "virtually identical" to the one that struck the Israeli Embassy there in 1992.

State Department counter-terrorism coordinator Phil Wilcox (formerly US consul-general in Jerusalem) told reporters the US considers last year's Hebron massacre by Baruch Goldstein "an act of terrorism."

However, it could not be considered an act of "international terrorism," because it occurred in

the West Bank, whose status has not been finalized, Wilcox said.

The report stated that Palestinian Authority chairman Yasser Arafat "has tried to rein in Palestinian violence against Israel" during 1994.

It also noted that since the Cairo Accord was signed last May, inter-Palestinian violence has also increased.

Rabin has 'new ideas' for talks with Syrians

ALON PINKAS

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin yesterday said he will bring "some new ideas" concerning the stalled Israeli-Syrian talks to US President Bill Clinton when the two meet in Washington next week.

Speaking in a special pre-Independence Day interview on Israel Radio, Rabin said that although the gaps between the two sides are still substantial, he hopes that within a year an agreement can be reached and submitted to the electorate for a referendum.

"My impression is that Syria's demands, at this stage of negotiations, are way excessive. That is why there are difficulties and impediments. If Syria wants peace, which I believe it does ... then one of their gravest mistakes is refusing to meet at high levels," Rabin said.

OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine said yesterday that Syrian President Hafez Assad was burning his candle at both ends.

"Assad is preparing his army for war to the best of his ability," Levine told Israel Television. "On the other hand he is conducting contacts [with Israel]."

Levine said Assad is continuing to build up his army with training programs and building up his arsenal of weapons.

"In my assessment, Assad is patient. He has no urgency," Levine said. "He conducts the negotiations firmly and he is preparing for the possibility that he will have to return to the military path."

Rabin, in the radio interview, attacked the Likud for misleading the public into thinking that peace with Syria is attainable without territorial compromises on the Golan Heights.

"Whoever says 'Peace with the Golan' is outright lying to the people of Israel. In particular those who were with Menachem Begin when he made decisions on the price of peace with Egypt must know that it is an outright lie to say that peace can be achieved with the entire, or most

of, the Golan Heights," he said.

On Friday, Rabin attended the annual Reserve Senior Command Conference, which all senior IDF reserve officers attend. Among the guests were former chiefs of general staff Ehud Barak, Moshe Levy, and Dan Shomron.

The audience was briefed by OC Intelligence Maj.-Gen. Uri Saguy, who described Syrian policy as still aiming to achieve peace as a strategic choice and priority, while not displaying any rush toward that goal.

On the eve of Rabin's trip to Washington, which is expected to focus on the talks with Syria, a senior defense official close to the negotiations with the Syrians said that Israel thinks Assad is primarily concerned with his stature in his country and his leadership position in the Arab world.

"He [Assad] actually believes that he can somehow get from Israel more than [Egyptian President] Anwar Sadat did," the official said. "This is partly why he insists on the symmetry in security arrangements and demilitarization zones."

"He is in a predicament of sorts. If he gets the 'Egyptian deal,' then why the 18-year waste of time? He could have concluded that together with Sadat at Camp David in 1979," the official said.

Meanwhile, Syria signaled yesterday that the latest round of direct talks would fail and blamed Israel for the impasse.

"Israel has already begun to make the talks a failure by repeating its previous positions without giving anything new," said Amed Khouli, chief editor of the government daily Al-Thawra.

He was commenting in a front-page editorial on the talks between Syrian Ambassador to the US Walid Mualem and Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich, which began in Washington last week.

The commentary was the first Syrian confirmation that the US-sponsored talks had resumed after a break of nearly three weeks.

Rabin, in the radio interview, (Continued on Page 2)

JERUSALEM MUNICIPALITY • Culture Department

INDEPENDENCE DAY GALA EVENTS

Jerusalem Theater, Wednesday, May 3

The Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra (IBA)

with David Jour

Independence Day Concert
Sherover Auditorium, 10:00 p.m.

Sing Along with Naomi Shemer

For Lovers of Community Singing,
Rebecca Crown Auditorium, 10:00 p.m.

Special Tourists Evening

Israeli songs and folk dances,
Henry Crown Auditorium, 10:00 p.m.

After the Performances:
A party with dancing in the foyer of the Jerusalem Theater:
Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, IBA
Hashagrim Band playing
dance music till dawn

A ticket to one of the performances includes admission to the party.

Tickets:
Bimot, 8 Shamai, Tel. 250905
Kia'im, 12 Shamai, Tel. 256869
Jerusalem Theater, Tel. 610011

Discount for Jerusalem Theater
subscribers and organized groups.

Israel
Ministry of Tourism



Peres supporters urge him to challenge Rabin in '96

SARAH HONIG

SUPPORTERS of Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in the Labor Party are urging him to challenge Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin for the party leadership and its nomination for the premiership, if Rabin does not fully meet their key demands, according to top Labor Party sources.

They said last night that at this juncture Rabin cannot regard himself as the party's natural candidate for prime minister.

Such brewing trouble in Labor is seen as the chief reason Rabin has appointed the director-general of his office, Shimon Sheves, to be his campaign manager.

Sheves's new appointment will take effect on June 1, upon his resignation from the Prime Minister's Office.

Labor MK Haggai Merom argued last night that "Rabin and Sheves cannot assume that Rabin

will just glide into the new nomination and not face any challenge whatever. This is simply not how things are in Labor now, and if anyone says differently he is either misleading the public or deluding himself."

Merom is considered to be in favor of a generational change in the Labor leadership, which would put Histadrut Chairman Haim Ramon at the helm.

But the most potent destabilizing force in Labor now is said to come from the direction of the Peres faction, where leading members have been holding meetings on how to best further their factional interests.

Many feel that Peres should throw his hat in the party leadership primary ring, or in the very least, should threaten to do so.

Peres in recent weeks had declined to unequivocally declare that he will not challenge Rabin, saying only that "1996 is a long time away and I can't commit myself to what will happen then."

The consensus in Labor is that Peres and his faction will make trouble if no fully comprehensive agreement is reached with Rabin soon.

Peres is reported to be seeking iron-clad guarantees about what his position will be in the next government, should Labor form it. He not only wants to know what his portfolio will be, but what his precise involvement will be in the peace process.

Things have not run smoothly between him and Rabin on this score, and he wants a clearer understanding and a fuller role with

more responsibility next time around.

Peres is also demanding to know just how many portfolios his faction will receive in a new Labor government.

At present, the Peres faction feels it has been severely short-changed. Ministers who had entered the cabinet on the Peres quota switched allegiance to Rabin - like Police Minister Moshe Shaleh - and Peres's efforts to expand his factional representation by the co-optation of his deputy, Yossi Beilin, to the cabinet had been frustrated thus far.

Should Peres not come away fully satisfied regarding his demands, he may well run against Rabin, it is said in his faction.

At this point no one can rule Peres out from the Labor leadership contest, say several sources in his faction.

Pathologists: Palestinian was tortured to death

News agencies

THE Hamas detainee who died after being questioned by the General Security Service was tortured to death, a pathologist who attended the autopsy said Friday.

The detainee, Abdel-Samad Harizat, was beaten for 20 minutes, had his head banged against a wall and was then left alone unconscious in a tiny isolation cell, according to news reports.

The beatings were carried out by five Palestinian collaborators who worked for the GSS, Army Radio and Ma'ariv reported.

Harizat was buried Friday night in Hebron. The army permitted 150 mourners to attend the funeral, which was held under heavy guard.

Harizat, 30, was detained last Saturday, and was transferred unconscious on Tuesday to Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem, where he died later that day.

An autopsy of Harizat's body was performed Thursday by two Israeli pathologists, with a Scottish pathologist, Dr. Derek Pounder, attending at the request of the dead man's family.

Pounder said Friday all three doctors reached the same conclusion.

"There is no doubt whatsoever about the cause of death, and it is very clear that he died from

unnatural causes, and that he died from torture," Pounder said on Army Radio.

"As far as I know this is the first absolutely clear-cut case where there can be no debate that this is a death as the result of torture, and nothing else," he told Reuters.

The GSS had been questioning Harizat in hopes he would lead them to Izzadin Kassam members in Hebron.

An Israeli security source said Harizat was a senior member of Izzadin Kassam and connected to three Hamas terrorists killed earlier this month by the IDF in Hebron.

Government Press Office head Uri Dromi said restrictions on the GSS were relaxed after the rash of deadly suicide bombings during the past year.

He said the GSS does not engage in torture, but had no choice but to exert some pressure on detainees.

The Justice Ministry is investigating Harizat's death, and has questioned the GSS agents involved in the case. The ministry said Friday that it has turned down a request by Harizat's lawyer that the agents involved in the interrogation be suspended.

Rabin: Direct election of PM must stand

ALON PINKAS

IN the strongest rejection to date of calls within the Labor Party to reconsider the direct election of the prime minister, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said yesterday it would be a "grave political error" to even consider changing the law.

In a pre-Independence Day radio interview, Rabin said the public endorsed the change because it wants to be involved in the election of the prime minister and not to leave it to back room

coalition-building politics.

"The Labor Party made a decision and led the legislative effort to change the electoral law," he said.

"I think it would be a political and public mistake on Labor's part to even raise the issue again for reconsideration," Rabin said.

"The public would not approve of that because it wants to be a partner in electing and deciding

who the prime minister will be and not leave it to coalition deals which are more than a little bit disgusting," he said.

The Direct Election Law went into effect last year and will be applied for the first time in the 1996 elections. The most vocal opponent of the law is Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

In the interview, Rabin refused to officially announce his candi-

dacy for re-election in 1996, saying "Yitzhak Rabin still has over a year of his term to complete as prime minister and the real test is whether we will accomplish the goals we set when we took office."

"Polls reflect a grumbling mood in the public, but this emanates from high expectations fueled for political reasons... never has the standard of living been so high in Israel, I am proud of this government's achievements," Rabin said.



Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak on Friday inspects a ticket for the Soldiers' Welfare Association annual raffle, presented to him by association head Ramli Dotan. (IDF Spokesman)

HU professor compares settler children to Hitler Youth

THE head of the German studies department at the Hebrew University, in an interview published Friday, compared soldiers who volunteer to serve in the territories to Nazi SS stormtroopers, and settlers in the territories to Hitler Youth, sparking calls for his resignation.

Prof. Moshe Zimmerman, quoted in the local Jerusalem newspaper *Yerushalayim*, said "Soldiers who volunteer especially for service in the territories are seen as heroes, and one can basically compare the spirit of this volunteerism to the spirit of the German who volunteered to serve in the SS."

Later in the interview, Zimmerman said, "The children of Hebron are just like Hitler Youth. From birth, they are infused with the idea that Arabs are bad, that there is antisemitism, that everyone is against us. They are turned into fanatics of a 'superior race.' Just like Hitler Youth."

In response, the B'Tzedek organization filed a police complaint and demanded Zimmerman be investigated on suspicion of racial incitement.

The organization also sent a telegram to Hebrew University officials, demanding that Zimmerman be removed from his post as department head. The call for his resignation was echoed by other right-wing activists.

A B'Tzedek spokesman said it also planned to demand civil damages from Zimmerman on behalf of the children of settler families in Hebron. (Itim)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Worker killed at Lod building site

A 30-year-old Romanian worker was killed Friday at a Lod construction site, when the arm of a crane he was trying to attach collapsed and hit him in the head and back. He was declared dead at the scene by MDA medics.

Police were trying over the weekend to locate the dead man's family through the Romanian consulate. (Itim)

Man murdered during dispute

A Kalansuwa man, 40, was stabbed to death yesterday morning in his Triangle area village. Police arrested two men as suspects. Police believe the murder was criminally motivated. (Itim)

Two tourists hurt by stones

Two tourists suffered light injuries yesterday afternoon when youths threw stones at their bus on Jerusalem's Salah a-Din Street. The bus windshield shattered, showering them with glass shards. They were brought to Shear Zedek Hospital. Police launched a search for the stone-throwers. (Itim)

Firebomb thrown near Jenin

A firebomb was thrown at a police car traveling in the Jenin area near the Tank junction yesterday, causing no damage or injuries. Police caught the perpetrator. (Itim)

Man struck and killed by car

A 50-year-old resident of the village of Akaba in Samaria was killed last night when he was hit by a car as he was crossing the road between Kfar Tapuah and Ma'alich Ephraim. Police are investigating.

As of Friday noon, there were 12 people killed and 52 seriously injured in 42 road accidents last week. Four of the people killed were pedestrians.

As of Friday, 214 people had been killed in road accidents so far this year. (Itim)

Peace Now activists visit Tel Rumeida

Some 20 Peace Now activists yesterday toured the Tel Rumeida area of Hebron and then met with Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natshe.

"Support for the peace process is dropping [in Hebron] because of the night curfew and the steps the IDF has taken in the town since the massacre in Hebron [by Baruch Goldstein]," Natshe told his guests.

Arab residents of Tel Rumeida said their relationship with their settler neighbors is poor and that the settlers throw stones, fire shots at night, and destroy their property.

Peace Now reiterated its stand that the Jewish residents of Hebron should be removed. (Itim)

With great sorrow we announce the passing away of our beloved husband, father and grandfather
Prof. SIEGFRIED (Yehoshua) STEIN
on Shabbat Kodesh, Parshat Kedoshim (29.4.95)
The shiva will take place at Rehov Harav Chen 4.
Rachel Stein
Avi Stein
Sammy & Malka Stein and children
Hannah & Edil Landau and children

The staff of Gate 1 U.S.A. and Israel
extend deepest condolences to
Ofer Avrahami and his family
on the untimely death of the head of their family
SHMUEL AVRAHAMI
Dani Pipano
President, Gate 1

In deep sorrow we mourn the passing of
CYRIL HOROWITZ
April 27, 1995
devoted volunteer of our association
and dear friend of the soldiers of Israel
The chairman, national executive
and volunteers of the Association
for the Wellbeing of Israel's Soldiers

With great sorrow we announce
the passing of
LEAH DUBIN (Dubinsky)
Her sister, Malca Perel, Los Angeles
and Bet Shluhot
Please phone Kibbutz Shluhot (06-582111) for
time of funeral.

'Israel shouldn't intervene in fate of Iranian regime'

ALON PINKAS

ISRAEL should not be or appear to be actively involved in determining the fate of the Iranian regime, a very senior defense source said Friday.

"Any action or appearance of action against the regime would be a fallacy and is tantamount to a declaration of war," the source said. "What Israel must do is prudently and relentlessly highlight Iran's policies. The campaign against Tehran's deeds must be led by the US."

He was relating to debate in Israeli decision-making and intelligence assessment circles over the fate of the regime in Iran and over the policy Israel should adopt in exposing Tehran's collusion in terror.

"Terror has never constituted an existential threat to Israel, but it now poses a strategic threat in that it

threatens to disrupt the peace process which is a strategic interest," he said.

On the extension of the Palestinian Authority's self-rule, the source said that unless the PA unequivocally proves it can assert its authority and control extremists in Gaza, it's "hard to see how they can attain self-rule in Jenin."

He noted that the July 1 deadline was defined as a target date. "When we reach that date, implementation will be gradual and in phases. Until then, all we are doing is relocating basic training camps. Why should we endanger the lives of so many non-combat soldiers who are essentially targets, rather than fighting units, and force them to move along the roads in Samaria?" he said.

RABIN

(Continued from Page 1)
also said the "central obstacle" to redeployment in the territories is terrorism. He noted that 105 Israelis were killed in attacks by terrorists since January 1994.

Since then Israel has arrested 2,800 suspects belonging to Hamas and Islamic Jihad, he said.

The transfer of three training bases out of the territories, which was announced last week, is aimed at ensuring the safety of

these soldiers, who are not stationed there to guard settlements or Israelis traveling in the areas, Rabin said.

"We will not evacuate these camps, but rather fill them either with command headquarters or forces," he said.

But Deputy Chief of Staff Maj.-Gen. Matan Vilnai said yesterday the announcement about transferring the bases was just "a trial balloon."

With deep sorrow and grief we announce the passing of our beloved father and grandfather

Dr. DANIEL FRANZ KLEIN

one of the founders of Osem

The funeral will take place today, Sunday, April 30, 1995 (30 Nissan 5755) at 1:30 p.m. at the Kiryat Shaul Cemetery.

We shall meet at the gate.

A bus will leave at 12:30 p.m. from the home of the deceased, 8 Rehov Micha, Ramat Gan.

Mourning by:

His daughter, Naomi Kolan
His daughter and son-in-law, Dorit and Itzhak Yarkoni
His brother, Hans Klein
Grandchildren, Orna, Roni, Rami and Dana
Great-grandson, Yonathan

Shiva at the home of his daughter, Naomi Kolan, 11 Rehov Arlosoroff, Givatayim.

We mourn the death of LAZSLO (Laci) BRAND

who passed away having enjoyed a full and happy life 1905 - 1995.

The funeral will take place today, Sunday April, 30, 1995 at 2:30 p.m. at Sde Yehoshua Cemetery, Gate No. 1

Harry and Vera Brand
The granddaughters and families

مكتبة القدس



A Russian Army major expresses his feelings about the photographer yesterday during a practice session in St. Petersburg for the upcoming Victory Parade marking the 50th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany. (AP)

Extradition row looms as UN crime conference gets under way in Cairo

CAIRO (Reuters) - A UN conference opened yesterday on cooperation against organized transnational crime as a dispute loomed in the background over the perennial problem of extradition and political asylum.

Dignitaries called at the opening session for a campaign against the big crime syndicates widely seen as a growing threat to international law and order.

"New and rapacious forms of criminality have been taking advantage of the very trends that have brought so many benefits: improvements in information and transportation technologies, relaxation of border controls and the internationalization of world markets," UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said in a message read out.

"Rising crime is impairing development and the general well-being of humanity... It requires coordinated international action, with close cooperation among states," he added.

Officials of the agency in charge, the UN

Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch in Vienna, say they want the 10-day conference to find ways to put into practice commitments member states have made at previous meetings.

These would include exchanging information, simplifying and standardizing extradition procedures and updating legislation to keep up with new forms of crime, such as computer crime and crimes against the environment.

But host country Egypt, with some backing from Tunisia and Turkey, has tried to put the spotlight exclusively on "terrorism" - acts of violence by their political opponents.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak told the opening session that terrorism and organized international crime were two sides of the same coin.

"I would like to invite you from this podium to intensify your efforts to avert this danger, which threatens individuals and groups, wrecking peace and security, preventing prosperity

and progress and turning society into a jungle," he said.

The way to prevent terrorism was extradition agreements and rules for international judicial cooperation, he added.

Egypt and the other two Middle East states with oppositions in exile submitted separate but similar resolutions saying there are links between organized international crime and groups which carry out acts of political violence.

In pre-conference consultations on Friday, the resolutions ran into opposition on the technical grounds that they reached the secretariat too late and only the Egyptian one was accepted for submission to the full conference.

But the Turks and Tunisians may merge their resolutions with that of Egypt, if they can agree on a text.

Diplomats said mainly Western countries opposed the resolutions as blatant attempts to win international support against the three governments' political opponents.

Tamil rebels shoot down two Sri Lankan planes

COLOMBO (AP) - Tamil rebels yesterday used anti-aircraft missiles to shoot down two Sri Lankan military jets, killing 32 people and escalating their war for a homeland, which has already left 34,000 people dead.

Two days in a row, the rebels have shot down planes over the same military airstrip in their stronghold in the north. It is the first time in the 12-year war that the separatists have used missiles.

Ninety people were killed in the two attacks.

The downing of the two aircraft threatens the security of tens of thousands of soldiers in six major military bases that have been surrounded by the guerrillas for five years.

Although the bases are accessible by sea, rebel attacks have put half of the navy's eight large gunboats out of action. One base had been saved from a siege four years ago by sea and airborne reinforcements and another in similar fashion in 1993.

Sri Lanka's small air force is crucial for getting troops, weapons and supplies to front-line bases in the north.

The rebels unilaterally called off a truce and pulled out of peace talks with the government 10 days ago, saying the govern-

ment had not met all their demands.

Since then, the guerrillas have also destroyed two gunboats, overrun a military base and killed 163 soldiers.

"The situation is beyond the control of the government because the military will want to hit back," said Vasudeva Nanayakkara, a left wing lawmaker.

"There can be no negotiations until the LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) relents," said Nanayakkara, who had earlier urged the two sides to return to the negotiating table.

Yesterday, the rebels shot down a twin-engine Avro aircraft at the Palali airstrip, a government toe-hold in the rebel-held Jaffna Peninsula, 310 km north of Colombo.

The victims included three journalists from a state-run newspaper who wanted to report on Friday's attack in the same area.

"The pilot had shouted 'missile attack' over the radio before he was hit and lost communication," said Brig. Sarath Munasinghe, the military spokesman.

The rebels have promised to return the bodies of 24 victims recovered from the wreckage to the International Committee of the Red Cross, a military official said. Earlier, the military had

wrongly announced that the bodies had been handed over to the Red Cross.

On Friday, the rebels downed another Avro aircraft over the same airfield, shortly after it took off with 38 soldiers heading home on vacation.

The origin of the missiles was not immediately known, but missiles made by China, Russia and the United States are believed to be plentiful in the region following the end of the Afghan war.

There was no immediate reaction from the government to the attacks. But President Chandrika Kumaratunga cut short her visit to Paris for an aid group meeting and headed home. Her mother, Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike, is in London for medical care.

Ms. Kumaratunga had said earlier that she hoped the rebels would not push the country to the brink of a war again.

"If we are attacked, we will attack. We have the strength to do so," Ms. Kumaratunga said before leaving for Paris on Tuesday.

Ms. Kumaratunga's People's Alliance was elected last August on a pledge to end the 11-year ethnic war. She began peace talks with the rebels in October.

Four killed in Croatian highway violence

ZAGREB (Reuters) - Separatist Serbs killed three Croatian motorists and took five hostage on a highway crossing ceasefire lines yesterday in reprisal for the murder of a Serb by an embittered Croatian refugee, the UN said.

The rebels promised to free the five yesterday in a swap for the body of the Serb under a deal made by UN peacekeepers scrambling to prevent the violence from ruining efforts to reconcile Croatia and its Serb minority.

The cross-country E-70 motorway reopened in December under a UN-mediated accord three years after traffic ceased during the Serb-Croatian war.

It was closed after the outbreak of violence but UN officials said the Serbs would reopen the section crossing their soil once the Serb's body was returned.

The UN initially reported four Croatians had died but corrected the toll to three. Several Croatians were seriously injured in the shootings and were evacuated by UN soldiers to Croatian hospitals.

Shooting erupted after a Croatian expelled from territory seized by Serbs in 1991 stabbed dead a Serb at Nova Gradiška petrol station on the Croatian side of the line on Friday night, UN Lieutenant-Colonel Walt Natynczyk said.

The victim's soldier brother, enraged by the killing, fired at two Croatian cars on the motorway inside the Serb pocket two hours later, puncturing their tires but injuring no one.

The UN advised Croatian police to shut the E-70 on their side of ceasefire lines as a security precaution until passions over the stabbing of the Serb cooled.

But a number of Croatian motorists entered Serb territory on the E-70 overnight and came under small arms fire.

One vehicle, a minibus, careered off the road and overturned and two occupants were killed, said Fred Eckhard, chief UN spokesman in the Balkans. The driver of the second car was shot in the head and died as he was being evacuated.

Oklahoma City bombing probe asks: Where did money come from?

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) - Searchers yesterday recovered chunks of the rental truck used in the devastating federal building blast, and parts of the bomb itself. Investigators immediately began reconstructing the truck.

"We're finding anything from golf ball-size pieces to dollar-size pieces to half the frame," city bomb squad Lt. Nathan Pyle said.

As the death toll in the worst terrorist attack in US history rose to 121, the FBI turned its attention to an Arizona town frequented by suspect Timothy McVeigh.

Agents examined motel rooms and questioning friends in an effort to trace his movements - and find where he got his money.

It was learned Friday that McVeigh stayed at the Imperial Motel in Kingman, Arizona, for almost two weeks, before turning up in Kansas in the final days before the worst act of domestic terrorism in US history.

Kingman, where McVeigh lived off and on since 1993, also was the site of a mysterious explosion earlier this year outside the home of an apparent acquaintance.

As a result, the desert city of 31,000 along Interstate 40 has become "a secondary focus of the investigation," a senior federal official in Washington said.

Early yesterday, police in Southern California said FBI agents were questioning a 24-year-old man picked up on suspicion of auto theft. "He looks amazingly like the guy in the (FBI composite) sketch" [of "John Doe No. 2,"] said Santa Monica Police Chief James T. Butts. The FBI declined to comment.

At the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, the death toll rose to 121, including 15 children.

As some workers carried out pieces of the Ryder rental truck, others carried an even grimmer burden: tiny red wagons and twisted tricycles from the building's devastated day-care center.

Some searchers said they were losing hope of finding anyone alive in rubble left from the April 19 bombing.

A small group of people from Waco, Texas, brought three flower-covered crosses to the building. The bombing occurred on the second anniversary of the

fiery end to the federal siege of the Branch Davidian cult compound there, and prosecutors have suggested that anger over that attack, that left 79 cult members dead, motivated the Oklahoma City bombing.

"We all have a common bond now, and it's terrible that it had to happen like this," said Amber King, who works at a Waco department store.

McVeigh, 27, the only person charged in the April 19 bombing, also is being held without bail based on what a federal magistrate called "an indelible trail of evidence."

Officials were checking to see if McVeigh or his friends, Terry and James Nichols, bought surplus items at Fort Riley, said an official at the Defense Logistics Agency in Washington, who refused to give her name. The Nichols are not charged in the Oklahoma City bombing.

Forensic evidence shows the 2,170-kg bomb was composed of ammonium nitrate and fuel oil, a detonating cord as a booster and a safety fuse designed to burn at a known rate of speed so a bomber can get away, officials said. Estimated price tag: \$5,000.

Flatow relatives help bomb victims

HILLEL KUTTNER
WASHINGTON

THE grandparents of the American college student killed in the recent Gaza Strip bombings have made a donation to the victims of the Oklahoma City explosion.

Fay Flatow, the grandmother of the late Brandeis University student Alisha Flatow, sent a check to B'nai B'rith, along with a short note that said simply: "I just lost my 20-year-old granddaughter in the bombing of the bus in Israel, so I really feel sorry for everyone."

B'nai B'rith's director of community volunteer services Sy Cohen said that as of Friday the organization had received \$235,000 in contributions for the Oklahoma City victims from 4,700 donors.

B'nai B'rith is one of several national agencies usually publicized as an address for citizens wishing to aid disaster relief efforts.

The organization expects to far exceed its previous record of \$250,000, which occurred two years ago during the floods in the Midwest, Cohen said.

Approximately 50% of the contributions received by B'nai B'rith for Oklahoma City have come from non-Jews, he added.

The Israel District of
the Zionist Organization of America
and The Jerusalem Post

MOSHE ARENS
Former Foreign Minister
and Minister of Defense

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Settlements
Mrs. Bruria Barish: - President Beit Daniel
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Information Center
Independence Day Events Committee

INDEPENDENCE DAY 5755
Main Ceremonies and Events

Reception for the Heads of the Education Establishment
Sunday, April 30

7:00 p.m. - In the presence of the Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, and the Minister of Education, Culture, and Sport
Amphitheater of the Armored Corps Museum, Latrun

EVE OF REMEMBRANCE DAY FOR THE FALLEN OF ISRAEL'S WARS
Tuesday, May 2

8:00 p.m. - Siren for a minute's silence, marking the start of Remembrance Day, throughout the country

8:01 p.m. - Remembrance Day for the Fallen of Israel's Wars - opening ceremony, in the presence of the President, and the Chief of Staff of the IDF, Western Wall, Jerusalem

REMEMBRANCE DAY FOR THE FALLEN OF ISRAEL'S WARS
Wednesday, May 3

11:00 a.m. - Siren for two minutes' silence

11:02 a.m. - Memorial services at military cemeteries, military sections of civil cemeteries, and memorial monuments, with the participation of families of the fallen, the President, the Prime Minister, the Speaker of the Knesset, Government Ministers, Knesset Members, and public personalities

11:02 a.m. - Memorial Gathering for the Fallen of the Illegal Immigration Movement, organized by the IDF and the Min. of Defense - Illegal Immigration Museum, Haifa

EVE OF INDEPENDENCE DAY
Wednesday, May 3

7:45 p.m. - Lighting of Beacons on Conclusion of Remembrance Day, and Proclamation of Independence Day, in the presence of the Speaker of the Knesset - Mt. Herzl Plaza, Jerusalem

8:45 p.m. - Address by the President - to be broadcast on TV

9:00 p.m. - Independence Day Celebrations, organized by local authorities throughout Israel

INDEPENDENCE DAY
Thursday, May 4

7:00 a.m. - Festive prayers at synagogues throughout the country

8:00 a.m. - midnight - Celebrations and Happenings, organized by local authorities - theme: Israel Welcomes Tourists. Dance processions, dancing and singing, dramatic presentations, street performances, exhibitions, entertainment platforms, festivals, sports competitions, and more.

9:30 a.m. - Reception for IDF Commanders, the President's Residence, Jerusalem

10:30 a.m. - Outstanding Soldiers' Ceremony, President's Residence, Jerusalem

11:00 a.m. - World Bible Quiz for Jewish Youth, in the presence of the Prime Minister, the Speaker of the Knesset, the President of the Supreme Court, the Minister of Education, Culture, and Sport, and the Chairman of the World Zionist Organization - the Jerusalem Theater

5:00 p.m. - Reception for the Diplomatic Corps, President's Residence, Jerusalem

7:30 p.m. - Award of the Israel Prizes, in the presence of the President, the Prime Minister, the Speaker of the Knesset, the President of the Supreme Court, the Minister of Science and the Arts, and the Mayor of Jerusalem

9:30 p.m. - Reception for Senior Members of the Defense Establishment, in the presence of the Prime Minister and Minister of Defense - Hakira Garden

Please do not bring a weapon to a ceremony.
Weapons brought to a ceremony must be left at the entrance.

Ailing Hutus trickle out of camp

KIGALI (Reuters) - About 70 Hutu refugees have abandoned the compound at Kibeho refugee camp, where Rwandan troops have blockaded about 1,000 people in appalling conditions to force them to leave, aid workers said.

The defiant Hutus still inside the building compound fear being killed if they surrender but government officials said they would be sent back to their home villages.

Thousands of Hutus were killed in the camp a week ago when government troops opened fire on crowds and provoked a stampede. The Hutus in the compound - which lacks food and water and reeks of excrement - want Rwanda to grant them safe passage to neighboring Zaire, where hundreds of thousands of Hutus live after fleeing last year's ethnic conflict.

On Friday, however, Zaire's parliament called for the unconditional expulsion of Hutu refugees from the country.

Aid workers said about 40 sick Hutus left the compound on Friday and 30 yesterday, among them a woman with a three-day-old baby. Tutsi troops of the Rwanda Patriotic Army (RPA) army have besieged Kibeho for the past week, cutting off supplies to force the Hutus into submission.

Interior Minister Seth Sendashonga, who visited the camp to plead with the Hutus to give up told reporters the government hoped they would be starved into ending their stand.

"We hope it will work this time," Sendashonga, a Hutu member of the ruling Rwanda Patriotic Front, which is mainly Tutsi, said back in Kigali.

"Of course we are concerned. It is not by pleasure that we keep people in this condition."

Hutus face a sullen reception at home or accusations that they were involved in the campaign of genocide against Tutsis last year in which up to one million people were killed.

Kazakh leader looks poised to win poll

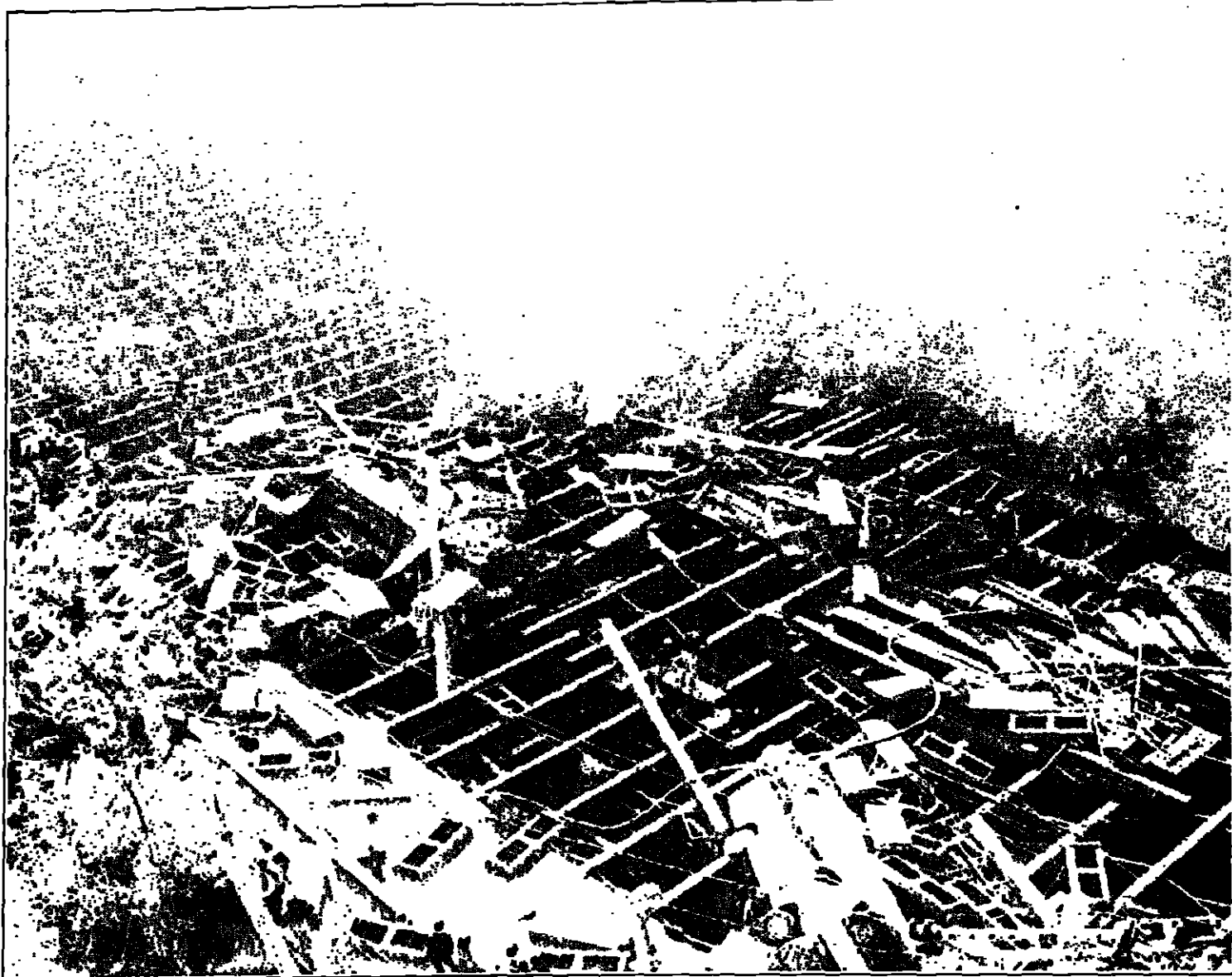
ALMA-ATA (Reuters) - President Nursultan Nazarbayev, brushing aside charges of dictatorial behavior, went ahead yesterday with a people's poll to extend his term and said he would hold more referendums on issues in Kazakhstan.

Nazarbayev, former Kazakhstani Communist Party boss who became the first national leader after the former Soviet republic became independent, looked relaxed and confident as he voted at an Alma-Ata polling station with his wife Tsara.

As the couple cast their votes, he countered accusations that his style has been dictatorial by pledging more democracy.

"After the referendum the first task will be to develop democracy, modernise the economy, develop the democratic processes which we have begun," he said.

"There will be other referendums - we shall talk about that tomorrow when the results of this referendum are known," Nazarbayev told reporters.



An aerial photograph shows the temporary road in Taegu just hours after a leaking gas line exploded during Friday morning rush hour, killing at least 98 and injuring nearly 200. (AP)

Three arrested over South Korean gas blast that killed at least 98

THREE employees of a small engineering firm were arrested yesterday on suspicion of rupturing a gas main shortly before a blast devastated a swathe of this South Korean city, killing at least 98 people, including 48 children.

Weeping relatives demanded compensation for the loss of their loved ones, now apparently mostly children. Their grief turned to anger when around 60 of them besieged a local council office, accusing ash-faced officials of neglect and of leaving corpses from the blast to rot in city morgues.

"Dozens of bodies are rotting at the hospitals because they don't know what to do with them," a weeping parent said. The relatives smashed desks and chairs at an office hastily converted into an emergency centre after the explosion ripped through a central district of South Korea's third largest city, 240 km south of Seoul.

Taegu Mayor Lee Jong-ju spoke to the families later and said loved ones of each victim would get a preliminary compensation payment of four million won (\$5,250) to help with funeral expenses.

A police investigator said three employees of Standard Engineering and Construction Inc. were suspected of accidentally damaging

News agencies
TAEGU, South Korea

the gas pipe about 10 minutes before the blast while drilling during construction of a shopping centre.

"Apart from the three arrested, we are going to question several more officials of firms involved in the subway and shopping centre construction," the investigator said. He gave no further details.

A grim-faced President Kim Young-sam, reeling from yet another man-made disaster in his term of office, visited the scene of the blast and ordered a swift probe. "I don't know what to say now. In particular I want to express my deep condolences on the death of these young students," Kim said after touring the scene.

Of the 98 official death toll so far, 48 of the victims were children heading for schools in the area when the explosion hurled cars, trucks and buses through the air like toys. Thirty-five were from nearby Yongnam Middle School.

"How could this happen to my children? I am simply at a loss for words," school principal Lee Kil-woo said.

The blast turned massive steel plates laid as a temporary road surface over the subway works into a deadly hail that crushed everything in their path, including pedestrians.

Vehicles tumbled into the yawning construction pit, including some buses carrying children to school.

At the scene of the disaster, rescuers ended a painstaking sift through debris, saying they no longer expected to find any more bodies.

A spokesman for the subway construction company said its preliminary investigation showed the accident happened when a digger working at the shopping centre project opened up an eight-cm fracture in a gas main.

The gas then seeped into the cavernous hole where subway work was under way. A welding torch or a cigarette may have sparked the devastation, he said.

"According to our own checks, there was no destruction or damage of a gas pipeline in our construction sector," he told reporters. He said a worker reported the smell of gas 10 minutes before the blast.

Less than five months ago a similar blast killed 12 in Seoul and three months before that 32 died when a bridge in the South Korean capital collapsed. (Reuters)

Wives of jailed US men head for Baghdad

RUWEISHED (Reuters) - The wives of two Americans jailed in Baghdad picked up their visas from the Iraqi embassy in Amman and left for Baghdad hoping to see them freed.

"I am hopeful he will be released," Linda Barloon told reporters at the desolate Jordanian border post of Ruweished minutes before crossing into Iraqi territory with Kathy Daliberti and a Polish diplomat.

Ryszard Krystosik, the diplomat who represents US interests in Iraq, will escort them during their stay in Iraq.

Barloon refused to say if she had word of a possible reprieve. "I will not say," she said when asked if she had any information they might be released.

Daliberti refused to talk to reporters as Jordanian officials stamped their American passports before they started their six-hour trip from the wind-swept border to Baghdad.

William Barloon, 39, and David Daliberti, 41, were arrested in Iraq on March 13 after crossing the border from Kuwait. They were tried and sentenced to eight years in jail for illegally entering Iraq.

Washington says they made a wrong turn and should be freed.

Barloon, of New Hampton, Iowa, works for US defense company McDonnell Douglas and

has lived in Kuwait with his wife and three children for the past 2-1/2 years.

Daliberti, of Jacksonville, Florida, works for the defense company Kay and Associates.

Linda Barloon arrived in Amman from Kuwait on Friday and joined Kathy Daliberti who flew into the Jordanian capital a day earlier from Florida.

The US State Department has said it expects the two women would be able to visit their husbands.

The State Department said on Thursday Iraq has allowed letters to be delivered to two Americans imprisoned in Baghdad by a messenger after repeatedly denying direct access to the prisoners by the Polish diplomat.

The contact was the first in two weeks with Barloon and Daliberti, spokesman Nicholas Burns said. However, he said the move was far short of humanitarian conduct that should be adhered to by "any normal nation."

"We were able to send a messenger to the jail and this person delivered mail, including a letter from Mr. Krystosik to Mr. Daliberti and Mr. Barloon, which explained that he had been denied access to them and that their wives were going to be arriving soon with other supplies for them," Burns said.

Vietnam mourns its dead 20 years after war's end

HO CHI MINH CITY (AP) - Balancing pride in its victory over the United States with an eagerness for full relations with its past enemy, Vietnam this weekend celebrated the 20th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War and the country's reunification.

Some victors stuck out their chests in pride; some of the vanquished nursed old hatreds. But two emotions were shared: sorrow that 3.4 million people died and hope that impoverished Vietnam would soon enjoy prosperity.

On the eve of the anniversary yesterday, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet recalled US B-52 raids, the massacre at My Lai and other "genocidal crimes" committed by the Americans.

But he urged Vietnamese to "shut the past and look to the future to raise our national spirits, expand international relations and work with other countries for peace, cooperation and development."

Earlier in the week, he told reporters in Hanoi he believed it was "high time for Vietnam and the United States to establish normal diplomatic ties as well as full commercial relations."

A low-key parade was to be staged yesterday on the broad, tree-lined Le Duan Avenue along which the former US Embassy stands and which ends at the one-time Presidential Palace.

On the morning of April 30, 1975, as Communist forces thrust into the city, the last US officials were plucked off the embassy roof by helicopters to end a chaotic

evacuation of some 140,000 Americans and Vietnamese.

The US-propped government of South Vietnam surrendered at the Presidential Palace early that day after a North Vietnamese T-54 tank smashed through its gates and infantry troops rushed in.

The grimly determined Communist effort to reunite the country, which began with the defeat of French colonialists two decades earlier had succeeded despite the military might the United States unleashed in more than a decade of involvement.

The victory sparked a mass exodus of "boat people" from the former South Vietnam and years of economic misery until the Communist Party loosened its grip and initiated free market-style reforms in 1986.

Ho Chi Minh City, called Saigon under the fallen regime, was festooned with flags and some commemorative banners, but most of its five million residents continued their frenetic focus on business and getting ahead.

In Hanoi, the capital, young, presumably Communist Party members drove in a cavalcade of motorcycles, carrying red flags to practice for yesterday's climactic celebrations. Loudspeakers blared patriotic songs from street corners.

A whole generation in Vietnam, which has an average age of 20.2 by UN estimate, has little or no memory of the war. Returning veterans and other Americans are often amazed at how little Vietnamese talk about the conflict.

Nicaraguan President Chamorro jumps from crisis to crisis

MANAGUA (AP) - Her country has conflicting constitutions and some legislators want to impeach her. The US is threatening to cut off aid that keeps the economy barely afloat.

"Thank God I only have a year and a half more in the government," President Violeta Chamorro said in a recent television interview. Politics, she added, is "a horrible thing."

The widow of a national hero, Chamorro has presided over almost constant turmoil since taking office in April 1990, ending a decade of rule by leftist Sandinistas and a US-financed civil war.

As president, she has confronted small armed uprisings by former Sandinistas and former Contra rebels, once backed by the United States; labor unrest; the revolt of the coalition that elected her; and economic troubles.

Her efforts to heal the wounds of war by appeasing the Sandinistas infuriated former supporters

and shattered her coalition. But it also kept the Sandinistas in line - until they recently split into feuding factions.

Chamorro said the current troubles are still "less than what we found on taking office" - when both sides in the civil war were near war and inflation was running at 33,000 percent a year.

But asked if she would have liked to serve another term, Chamorro said, "I don't want to be re-elected because everyone here is unwelcome."

Chamorro, 65, is the widow of newspaper publisher Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, who was assassinated by gunmen working for former dictator Anastasio Somoza.

US aid never reached the levels Nicaraguans had hoped for when they ended the civil war.

The \$800 million in US aid over the past five years has still been crucial to this country of 4 million, where half the workforce is estimated to be unemployed.

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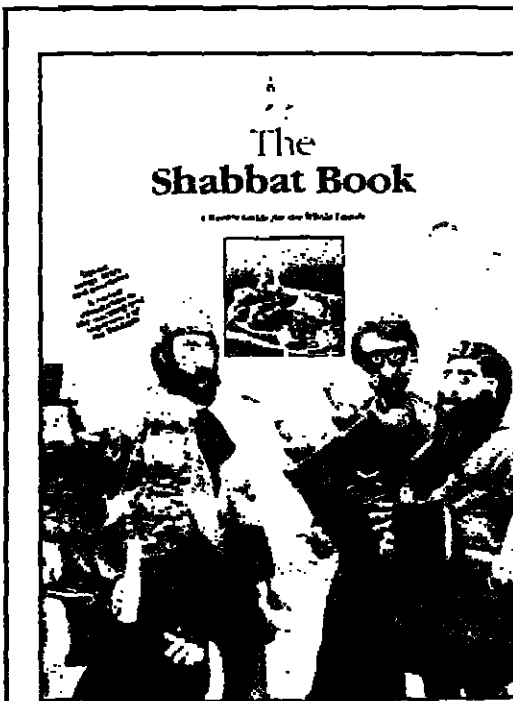
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Many of TA's homeless still have a chance

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

A Tel Aviv psychiatrist who spent two years tending to the city's homeless says many can be rehabilitated, especially those who have been living in the streets for less than a year.

Dr. Avi Raps was asked by the Tel Aviv Municipality's homeless-persons unit to accompany teams of caseworkers on visits to the city's street people.

His research was the first effort by a local psychiatrist to provide long-term treatment for these rootless people: since then, researchers from Tel Aviv University's School of Social Work have begun to study the problem academically.

Raps says there have always been homeless in this country, but in the past they were less visible and taken care of "somehow" in the community. The phenomenon has intensified in recent years, especially due to the influx of CIS immigrants. Alcoholism and drug abuse also contribute to the problem.

The psychiatrist says one has official figures on the number of homeless in Tel Aviv or other cities. Foreign studies show that 3 percent of those living below the poverty line are liable to become homeless, which suggests that 18,000 Israelis are at risk.

Raps offers a "rough guess" of 100 to 200 homeless people at any one time on Tel Aviv's streets.

A minority of the homeless are runaway teenagers, but they were not treated by the municipality's homeless unit, which devoted its efforts to adults. The adult homeless included native Israelis, veteran and new immigrants, addicts, alcoholics and psychotics.

About 60 to 70 percent of them are heavy drinkers, but it isn't known whether alcohol is the cause of their homelessness or



Tel Aviv psychiatrist Avi Raps: It is a myth that some homeless people choose to sleep in the streets for "ideological" reasons, such as wanting to be free or to live without ties and obligations. (Hanoach Gushman)

the result of drowning their troubles.

It is a myth that some homeless people choose to sleep in the streets for "ideological" reasons, such as wanting to be free or to live without ties and obligations, Raps said in an interview. The veteran homeless avoid contact with other people, especially from the "establishment," such as government workers.

"They smell of alcohol and vomit, are filthy, their hair [is] overgrown and full of lice. They generally won't sit still long enough for a conversation. They hide information, are suspicious and frightened. They don't know what time it is," Raps wrote in a recent issue of *Harefuah*, the journal of the Israel Medical Association.

About 95 percent of them are men - an unusual statistic, since in major US and European cities, homelessness is divided almost equally among the sexes, Raps says.

Raps gradually got to "know well" about 50 homeless people.

"As a psychiatrist and physician, I had never before had to deal with such myriad and complex problems; only on rare occasions could I make an accurate diagnosis from a single meeting."

As an example of a "happy ending," Raps describes a 71-year-old Russian-born divorced man who suffered from Parkinson's disease and mild dementia, and had been on the streets for only two weeks. He first immigrated here in 1947, but then went to Australia, established a shipping company and lived in Tokyo and Manila. He was a rich man, but his business collapsed and his son died of AIDS in London.

He returned here. His allowances from the Absorption Ministry ran out and he found himself on the street. The municipality's team arranged a place for him in an old-age home, where his condition has improved.

Another was a 37-year-old native-born divorced man, the father of two children. Living on the street for two years, he was

found by the unit in a frightened state, hallucinating, paranoid and with suicidal thoughts. He had served in the standing army, where he suffered from post-traumatic shock syndrome in the Lebanon War but never sought help.

He began to take drugs and became an addict. His wife left him. He agreed to undergo psychiatric treatment in a hospital - in fact, Raps says, he begged for help. He has now made contact with his family and is being helped by the Defense Ministry.

THERE WERE also many unhappy endings. A 44-year-old Russian immigrant suffered from pneumonia and jaundice. He was rushed by ambulance to the hospital many times, but was never able to give up drinking. He died in the street.

Raps says he was shocked by the large number of chronic homeless in Tel Aviv; he encountered one man who had been on the streets for 30 years. Homeless people, he adds, are a nuisance to

society but are rarely, if ever, dangerous, except to themselves. The government invests too little in manpower and resources to try to help the homeless, Raps says. "I believe there is a basic human right to a place to live."

Unlike Russia, where alcoholics can be forced to undergo rehabilitation, this does not exist here. The mentally disturbed living on the street may need to be hospitalized for the rest of their lives, but they are not subject to forced hospitalization unless they are legally declared dangerous to society or themselves.

There is an urgent need for a medical team to make the rounds among the homeless and treat their illnesses. "Perhaps the nursing schools could set aside one or two students for a half-time job," Raps suggests.

Sooner or later, he says, a solution must be found for these unfortunate people. "The health system must deal with this special population, so that we don't find ourselves with a problem of the magnitude that it is in the US."

Sugar is the 'real thing' in cola

Rx FOR READERS
POST HEALTH REPORTER

Is cola really so bad for the teeth or is it only a bum rap? Is diet cola any better? T.J. Arad.

Dr. H. S.-C. of the Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Dental Medicine replies:

There is a certain acid peculiar to cola that can be damaging to tooth enamel, but it is the sugar in cola, or for that matter in any soft drink, that can cause decay.

If you have to drink cola, diet cola is much less harmful than cola with sugar. But any drink with sugar, and that includes beer, has pretty much the same effect on teeth as cola.

After drinking a sweet beverage, it is best to rinse out your mouth or, even better, to brush your teeth. Anything that gets saliva running, such as chewing a sugarless, fluoride chewing gum, will help fight cavities.

In any case, it is less harmful to teeth to drink something sweet than to eat something sweet. The sugar in a soft drink can be washed away more easily.

I had a streptococcal throat infection (angina). My doctor said it didn't matter whether I took penicillin at meals, while my pharmacist said to take it on an empty stomach. Who is right? N.I., Jerusalem

Prof. Zvi Ben-Zvi of the clinical pharmacology department at Ben-Gurion University replies:

Your doctor is right. Until five or six years ago, it was believed that penicillin had to be taken on an empty stomach. It was thought that the gastric acids produced during and after a meal break the penicillin down and reduce the effectiveness of the antibiotic.

Studies have found that taking penicillin during or after a meal does not reduce its effectiveness, so the current policy is that it can

be taken with food, after meals or on an empty stomach. Other types of antibiotics, however, can be affected by stomach acids.

I live in a kibbutz. Lately I've found metal filters on my kitchen and bathroom faucets coated with tiny rust particles. The people who maintain the plumbing system tell me they clean the filters on the pipes that bring water into the building, and that there is nothing they can do. They also claim the rust in the pipes is not harmful. M.A., a kibbutz in the Negev

Shalom Goldberger, an engineer in the Health Ministry's department of environmental health, says:

Rust is oxygenated iron. The ministry has a standard for rust in the water, but it was set only for esthetic, not health, reasons, as people won't drink water that is brown or red.

Prof. Geoffrey Berlyne, a nephrologist in Omer and an expert on drinking-water standards, adds:

Rust particles in the water do not affect the kidneys or otherwise endanger health. Even if you drink a lot of water, the rust is not ingested in large quantities. In fact, you're getting a source of iron for free.

Rx For Readers welcomes queries from readers about medical problems. Experts will answer those we find most interesting, and replies will be printed in the twice-monthly column on the Health Page.

Write Rx For Readers, c/o Judy Siegel-Itzkovich, The Jerusalem Post, P.O.B. 81, Jerusalem 91000, or fax 02-389527, giving your initials, age and place of residence. Phoned-in queries will not be accepted.

The independent-physician system: Clalit's best-kept secret

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

DO you see your doctor in a health-fund clinic or in his own office? Members of Kupaat Holim Clalit who go to a community clinic for consultations and treatment are more likely to be elderly, more sickly or have a lower income than patients who go to an independent doctor's clinic for care.

A 30-page study of 514 Clalit members conducted by Dan Yuval and Bruce Rosen of the IDC-Brookdale Institute in Jerusalem and by Uri Gabbai of Clalit presents some interesting findings on the independent-physician system in the largest health fund. Clalit has allowed the system to expand over the past few years - largely as a result of noting how popular the independent-doctor scheme is in the Maccabi and Meuhedet health funds, and to a lesser extent in Leumi.

But the researchers found that half of all Clalit patients they queried in community clinics were completely unaware of the existence of the alternative system. And once they discovered it, they were not encouraged by the health fund to opt out of the clinic.

Around the country, Clalit has 1,300 community clinics, where salaried physicians - general practitioners and specialists - receive patients, who also have access to nurses, a pharmacy, labs and other services. Clinic physi-

cians are paid a set wage, no matter how many patients they see, as long as they are in the building for the requisite number of hours. The health fund covers all these doctors' expenses, including insurance and equipment, and they, of course, pay no rent.

Under the independent-physician scheme, doctors receive patients in facilities that they rent or own. They work on a contractual basis, and their contract is renewed yearly. They themselves cover all the expenses of self-employed persons and have higher financial risks, but they are paid according to the number of patients under their care.

Most of them work alone, having to send patients to clinics if they need a nurse, lab tests or hospital referrals, but some independent physicians work in group practices in which a number of GPs and specialists band together to provide more comprehensive care on a contractual basis.

A small number of doctors work both in health fund clinics and as independent doctors; this worried the researchers, because some of their patients initially heard about the independent system from their clinic doctors, who told them about the possibility of getting care in their private offices. The researchers suggested that allowing this could encourage doctors to "select" healthier, wealthier clinic pa-



Elderly, sicker and poorer members of Kupaat Holim Clalit are more likely to seek treatment at a clinic than to make use of the fund's independent-physician system. (Hanoach Gushman)

tients for their practices.

Patients who patronize independent doctors may choose anyone on the list and switch to another doctor once in three months. Until recently, say the authors, Clalit members who go to a community clinic for care

have been "tied" to doctors working in the community clinic closest to their home. It was for years standard practice for clinic clerks to "assign" patients to a specific doctor, rather than let them choose for themselves. But more recently, freedom of choice

has expanded significantly.

In 1971, Clalit instituted a small independent-doctor scheme to try to compete with the smaller health funds, which were being treated by independent physicians than those registered in community clinics.

By 1993, some 175,000 Clalit members were seeing independent general practitioners and family physicians, while an additional 60,000 were seeing independent pediatricians. But that is still a minority, given the 3 million Clalit members.

(Clalit spokesman David Tagar comments that the health fund encourages members to use the independent-doctor system, and that there are now 300,000 seeing GPs and family doctors in their own offices and an additional 800,000 going to independents.)

The survey found that patients in the independent system were younger, healthier and better off financially than those registered in the clinic system.

Patients of independent doctors were more likely to enjoy flexible visiting hours, more comprehensive treatment, better doctor-patient relations and "more relaxed" treatment than those in community clinics.

Independent doctors were found to have higher morale and a greater feeling of being their own boss. But health fund managers are naturally fearful that independent doctors may be too independent: by sending patients for unnecessary tests and referrals more than clinic doctors would. In fact, previous studies show that per-patient costs to the health fund are 10 percent higher for those treated by independent physicians than those registered in community clinics.

Independent physicians are more likely than clinic doctors to be Israeli-born graduates of local medical schools. They also give their patients their home phone number for emergencies, while relatively few patients of clinic doctors knew how to reach them in the off hours. Nonclinic doctors tended to do more preventive medicine than clinic doctors.

The researchers found that independent doctors have a smaller case load than their counterparts in the clinics. Since they're paid per patient, the average independent doctor sees fewer individuals but is paid more.

The authors conclude that the independent-physician system presents definite benefits to both patients and health funds: patients are generally more satisfied, and 18 percent of those going to independent physicians say they'd switch health funds if prohibited from doing so.

It may be that community clinics are better suited to treating the elderly and poor, they declare, but this could lead to a two-class health system. This trend could be reduced by offering more choice of doctors in the clinics.

Clalit recently reduced its per-head payments for patients treated by independent doctors, so monthly pay is now more evenly divided between the two systems. This should increase competition and raise the status of clinic doctors.

New drug improves blood-sugar balance in some diabetics

HEALTH SCAN

POST HEALTH REPORTER

A new drug for noninsulin-dependent diabetes (Type II) has been successfully tried at the diabetes unit at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem.

The drug, developed by the German pharmaceutical company Bayer and known as Parndase, works solely on the digestive system and differently from other diabetes drugs.

Dr. Miriam Kidron, who ran the study, said "our food comprises protein, fats and carbohydrates. In order that nutrients can be absorbed by the digestive system, specific enzymes break the materials up into small molecules. Carbohydrates are broken up into simple sugars like glucose by the enzyme alpha-glucosidase, which is found in cells that line the small intestine."

The new drug suspends action of this enzyme, causing a slower breakdown of complex sugars into simple sugars. This results in slower absorption of glucose by the blood after a meal and blocks in a sudden increase in blood sugar. In turn, this prevents the secretion of too much insulin, which can cause serious

complications in diabetics.

Kidron said the drug assists adult-onset diabetics unable to reduce their sugar levels by diet. Parndase can also be used in conjunction with other drugs to maintain an improved blood-sugar balance.

The 12-week clinical trial included 24 patients. Most of the patients who received the drug showed a much better blood-sugar balance, and some even had normal levels. Since the drug works in the digestive system, it may cause side effects, including bloating and a gassy stomach, but Kidron said these can be prevented by the gradual introduction of Parndase until the right dose is reached.

Since the drug usually does not affect other body systems, it is a relatively safe medication suitable even for the elderly. Only a minority of patients cannot take the drug because of side effects, she said.

56 countries, and it has just received the Health Ministry's authorization.

MDs LEARN UNCONVENTIONALLY

Courses in complementary medicine for doctors and paramedical professionals will begin in the next few days at Assaf Harofe Hospital. The hospital said it is the first time in this country that such courses will be offered solely to medical professionals.

The aim is to raise the level of complementary medical care, said Dr. Shai Pinov, head of the hospital's complementary medicine services.

This is best done when doctors, nurses, physiotherapists and other professionals use complementary medicine instead of nonprofessionals, he said.

"At present, anyone without a medical background can take a short course and open a complementary-medicine clinic,"

feedback, reflexology and the Paula Technique (in which the body takes control of the sphincter muscles). Participants will study for anywhere between a year and three years.

COCHLEAR IMPLANT FOR BABIES

A "bionic ear" for deaf babies has been developed by Australian scientists. Cochlear implants for older deaf children and adults have been available for several years, but this is the first device suitable for infants, Prof. Graeme Clark said.

Clark, who headed the development team in Melbourne, told the Associated Press conventional devices are too big for children younger than two. The new device is half the size of conventional implants.

Cochlear implants are surgically implanted in the head to transform sound vibrations into nerve impulses that are relayed to the brain. Clark said the first implantations will begin in a few months.

Giving the implant to babies is ideal, because learning speech and language with the device will be much easier.

Home & Garden

Special Jerusalem Area Supplement
May 19, 1995

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A civilized society

THE war against Hamas terror cannot be fought with kid gloves and the government acted correctly when, in response to the plague of suicide bombers, it relaxed the restrictions which have guided General Security Service interrogations of suspected terrorists.

No inch must be given either to Izaddin Kassam members themselves, or their many supporters who provide the would-be martyrs with the logistical support needed for their terrorist acts.

The announcement last week that the GSS, along with the IDF, foiled a suicide attack planned for Netanyahu which, had it been successful, would have undoubtedly cost a large number of civilian lives, is a sign that intelligence work does pay off.

But one would have to be incredibly naive to assume that such work never involves the use of physical force. Someone who is prepared to blow himself up into little pieces will not be intimidated by a rude GSS questioner. Sleep deprivation may be unpleasant, but it will not bring a quick answer to a life-or-death question. When the bomb is ticking, the Landau Commission ruled, physical pressure is acceptable.

The death last week of Hamas member Abdel-Samad Harizat while in GSS custody, however, does show Israeli society's sensitivity to the level of force it is prepared to sanction in the fight against terror. According to some media reports, Harizat was beaten unconscious by other Palestinians following orders from GSS officials.

Quite rightly, the Justice Ministry has ordered a criminal investigation into Harizat's death. This investigation, as have others in the past, will not shirk from pressing criminal charges should the investigators find the GSS officials exceeded the permitted norms or failed to report promptly and accurately the events leading to Harizat's death in custody. A sign of the authorities' determination to conduct a full and proper examination of Harizat's death can be seen in their ready acquiescence to the participation of an independent pathologist, representing the deceased's family, at the autopsy.

This openness and the refusal to brush unsavory incidents under the carpet are the hallmarks of a civilized society which, in its unrelenting battle against terrorism, is still concerned with the sanctity of human life.

Invisible truce

OBSERVERS of the situation in Bosnia might be forgiven for asking "what cease-fire?" about the news that a four-month-old truce is due to expire tomorrow. In reality the truce has been farcical a misuse of the word as the "havens" supposedly established by the United Nations in Sarajevo and Bihać. Yet, the collapse of the Jimmy Carter cease-fire - even though it has been honored in the breach than the observance - may prove to be a dangerous turning point.

The illusion that there has been some invisible restraint on the combatants has given the international Contact Group a psychological four-month breathing space to come up with some new ideas - or even better, with some effective threats - to halt that mental leap into "all-out war" which Bosnia is preparing to make this week. The Contact Group has come up with nothing. More accurately, this five-nation powerhouse has come up with a desperate last-minute appeal to the warring parties to extend the cease-fire, but it has offered no new proposals to avert the inevitable.

Former US president Carter introduced his much-trumpeted New Year cease-fire in a whirlwind post-Christmas visit to Bosnia. Cynics at the time suggested it had more to do with shoring up Carter's reputation as a mediator than with making a serious dent in the Balkan war. In so far as it it did hold, the truce patently offered the combatants a winter breathing space to rebuild their forces and supplies for the traditional "spring offensive" that now appears to be bursting out all over.

The tragedy is that the truce might have

worked, but for a fatal flaw in its conception. Carter failed to include a key party in the agreement. That party was the Krajina Serb enclave inside Croatia and adjacent to the Bihać enclave in north Bosnia. Had the guns fallen silent all across Bosnia, that would certainly have offered a major psychological boost to all involved in the war and the peacemaking to redouble their efforts. As it turned out, the Croatian Serbs continued to besiege Bihać across the frontier as proxies for their Bosnian Serb compatriots who took a cease-fire breathing spell. While Sarajevo and other areas indeed enjoyed a couple of months' respite, the general impression was of a war that spluttered on rather than a peace that took hold.

Even worse, the period of the cease-fire has seen the most serious deterioration ever in the status of the United Nations, which should be expected to enforce any truces. UN aid workers have been reduced to the ludicrous level of riding on donkeys because the Serbs have cut off fuel supplies to the peacekeepers. The UN has come under three separate attacks just this weekend. What the organization is expected to do when the mythical cease-fire collapses tomorrow is anybody's guess.

With increased bickering among the mediators of the Contact Group, the failure of NATO to provide air cover for the UN havens, threats from Russia and France to pull out their nationals, and the general contempt for anything the United Nations has to say on any issue, the day is clearly approaching when the main UN role in Bosnia will become extricating itself from the morass with as little loss of life as possible.

LURIE'S WORLD



'She's 20 months pregnant and getting heavier by the day, Yitzhak....'

Parole for Pollard

CAROL POLLARD

BY November 1995, my brother Jonathan will have completed 10 years in jail for passing classified information to an ally of the US - Israel.

In the beginning, we could not understand why he was punished so severely, why he was kept in a ward for the criminally insane for 10½ months with "no need for treatment" stamped on his papers, why he was sent to Marion Prison, where he was kept in solitary confinement for 5½ years, why the US government hadn't made any specific accusations, and couldn't even tell us exactly what he did.

The smear campaign was ugly and unstoppable. Other agendas were at work here, and we hadn't a clue as to what they were.

Through promises made to Jonathan, in a written plea bargain requested by the Justice Department, Jonathan was persuaded to sign away his right to a trial in exchange for less than a life sentence.

Twenty-two countries were transferring nuclear, chemical and biological weapons technology to Arab states - in particular Iraq. This was six years before the Gulf war, six years before Saddam Hussein became a household name.

Jonathan's hearing, in camera, would ensure that this nasty secret never came to light. Gordon Crovitz, in the *Wall Street Journal*, called it "government sandbagging." This information did, of course, come to light after the Gulf war.

At the time, however, then secretary of defense Weinberger's secret memorandum to the sentencing judge, condemning Jonathan's "treasonous acts," sealed his fate. The judge ignored the plea bargain, and Jonathan, never accused of treason, received a life sentence. In similar cases, where individuals had spied for allies, they received sentences of two to four years.

The National Security Agency, the Department of Defense and the intelligence communities. And he wanted to know one other thing: what the Jewish leaders were thinking.

For the most part, they said nothing. Jonathan remains in jail today, in large part, because many of our Jewish leaders were silent. I strongly believe that if President Clinton had gotten the go-ahead he was looking for from the Jewish leadership, he would have overridden his own government agencies.

It wasn't until right after the Gulf war, when facts about Jonathan's case started to creep into

Jonathan remains in jail today in large part because many of our Jewish leaders were silent

the public arena, and with the help of a very persistent grassroots involvement, that Jewish leaders took up the cause.

Two years ago, 1,000 rabbis signed a full-page advertisement in the *New York Times* urging President Clinton to commute Jonathan's sentence. It is the first time in Jewish history that all denominations of Judaism appeared on the same page in a united effort.

The "Pollard Affair," as it has come to be known, produced an outpouring of Jewish bloodletting in the government agencies. Many Jews had their security clearances reexamined, or were not granted higher clearances. Some were told outright that "the US government did not need any more Jew-boys like Pollard" in their midst. Instead of fighting such outrageous collective punishment, many decided to turn their anger on Jonathan.

The arrest and conviction of Aldrich Ames, a high-ranking member of the CIA who spied for Russia for 8½ years should have cleared Jonathan's name of many of the most serious accusations

heaped upon him through innuendo and slander.

It was Ames who caused the deaths of at least 10 US operatives in Russia and Western Europe and "rolled up" over 55 Allied operations. Yet all the while he was committing treason against the US, he was blaming Jonathan Pollard to cover his own misdeeds.

Ames never spent time in a ward for the criminally insane, and was never sent to a place like Marion Prison to live in solitary confinement. He is presently serving his life sentence in Allenwood Prison in Pennsylvania, known affectionately as "Club Fed."

Essentially the only difference between Ames's sentence and Jonathan's sentence is that Jonathan is eligible for parole.

We want this crucial and essential difference in Ames's sentence to count for something: Ames spied for an enemy nation, has expressed no remorse and was responsible for demonstrable harm, including the deaths of many people. Jonathan did none of this.

We must now turn all of our energy, attention and focus toward Jonathan's parole hearing, which will take place sometime before November.

Prime Minister Rabin has already asked President Clinton twice for Jonathan's release on humanitarian grounds, and I suspect that he will continue to ask for Jonathan's release, through parole or commutation of his sentence to time served.

On the other hand, the same government agencies, institutions and personalities that objected so strongly last year to Jonathan's commutation can be expected to do so again. They will press the buttons of the media, and there will be an outpouring of venom and unsubstantiated charges, again unquestionably accepted by most people.

The question, once again, will be whether support for parole can issue a sufficiently clear and unambiguous call that will outweigh the expected government agencies' recommendations.

The writer is Jonathan Pollard's sister.

POSTSCRIPTS

A DUBLIN professor has unearthed 300 poems by Samuel Taylor Coleridge after a 20-year search that took him to five continents.

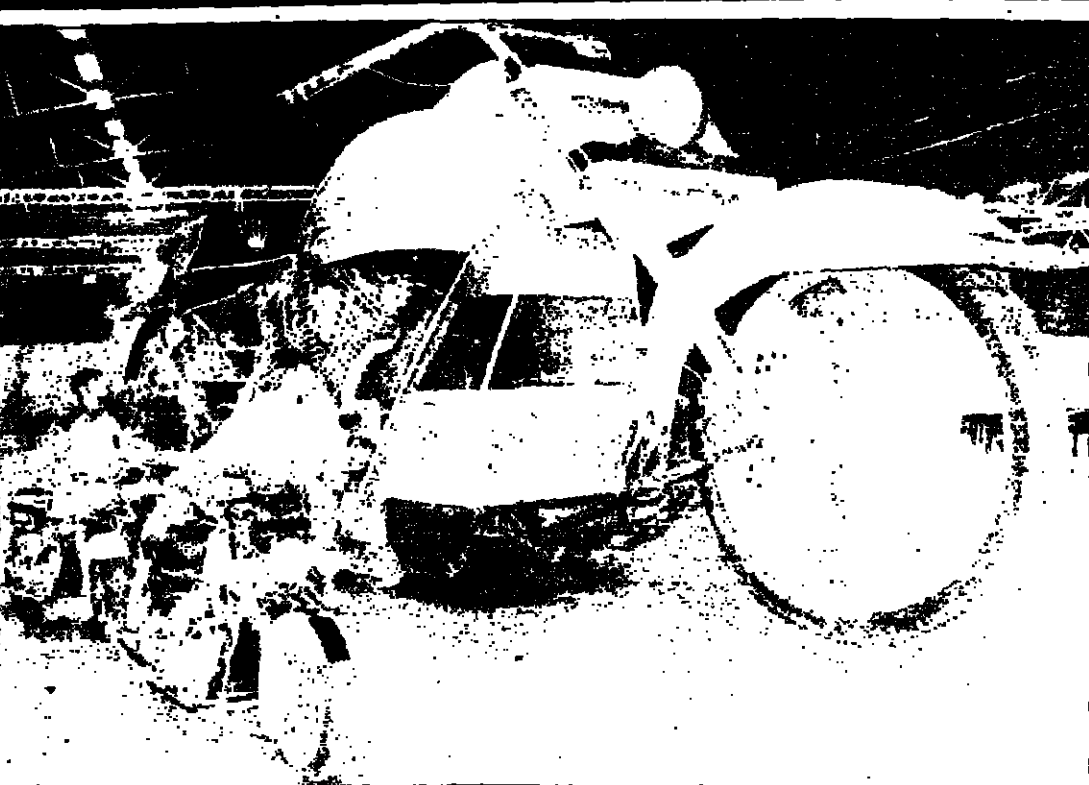
The discovery could lead to a reappraisal of Coleridge (1772-

1834), one of the great names of English literature.

The new finds confirm Coleridge's eccentric reputation. One is an elegy to his broken shaving pot. According to a report,

"there are texts about buggery, gout, ingrown fingernails and lesbian lovers. One is in Greek and Hebrew about a friend who has trouble sustaining erections with his frisky new wife."

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



Not for no reason is this called the 'Ultra Monster Cycle,' on show recently near Paris. It carries six passengers in a luxury cabin at the rear, it's equipped with a Cadillac 300 hp engine and can reach a maximum speed of 130 km/h, and we hope it's got a muffler.

Defeat for the pollsters

HANOCH SMITH

LAST Sunday night was election night in France and Italy.

Being interested in such matters, and particularly in the latest media techniques for viewing the results, I turned my cable TV on to the French and Italian stations.

On both, the presentation of the results was excellent. Without knowing either of the languages well, it was possible to follow the results as they came in.

In both countries exit polls were used extensively, so that immediately after the closing of the polling booths, forecasts were available for all the various parties' results.

The French were especially accurate. From the first predictions on, the numbers changed very little all evening, and the final results of the exit polls closely matched the opening forecasts.

A triumph of predictions? Nothing of the kind!

The results were stunning. All the polls before the elections predicted that Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac would win by a sizeable margin, with Premier Edouard Balladur and Socialist Lionel Jospin battling it out to be the second candidate in the coming runoff.

True, the French have the quaint custom of not allowing publication of poll results during the last week before the actual voting date. But this does not prevent media outside the coun-

Could it be that people are fed up with being badgered for their opinions and not thinking?

try from making small scoops. The point is that everyone expected Chirac to lead the field, handily.

Final official results showed that Jospin polled 23.3 percent, Chirac 20.8 and Balladur 18.5.

What happened to the polls? From election night on, the pollsters took a pasting, both inside France and outside.

There is natural glee in seeing the high-flying polling experts make fools of themselves.

Statistically speaking, the actual error in predicting the relative results for Chirac and Jospin was in the order of 10 percent; far beyond the so-called margin of error (usually three to four percent) for the sizes of samples used by the various research organizations.

Explanations must be found, for there is a growing belief that published survey results affect voting behavior, often influencing politicians whether to run or not, and producing bandwagon or underdog effects.

In France, any of these could have been the case.

IN ITALY, the story was different.

The exit polls gave an advantage to Silvio Berlusconi and parties in his center-right coalition.

Several days later, when the final results were published, the results showed that the center-left camp, led by the former communists, had emerged as the leading party, victorious in nine out of 15 provinces.

This was viewed with great surprise, since it was not what the exit polls showed.

So it was a bad night for pollsters and election analysts.

Yet one should not exaggerate. Opinion polls do generally turn out as good predictors in many countries, and exit polls do generally give an accurate picture of the results.

This is generally accepted, so that good forecasts do not especially make the news - only the extraordinary ones, like those on Sunday night.

What one learns, especially from the French lesson, is that some highly unpredictable results are beginning to come out in countries where the research techniques are quite advanced.

Could it be that the public is getting annoyed at the frequent calls they are getting, polling them on all kinds of products, services, TV viewing and political opinions, and aren't always giving their carefully considered opinions?

The writer is a pollster and election analyst.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SMOKING ON EL AL

Sir - The article by Allison Kaplan Sommer on El Al and its new chairman Joseph Ciechanover (*Money Magazine*, April 12) was most interesting. However, there was no mention of El Al's smoking policy, in which there is great interest.

El Al could become healthier, safer, more popular and increase its profit margin, if it became a no-smoking airline. El Al would pay less flight insurance and some non-smokers on other airlines would switch to El Al.

PETER SINGER

Jerusalem.

SLEAZE ON TV

Sir - A few weeks ago, you published a report that a leading Jordanian dignitary had claimed that Israeli culture is inferior to Arab culture. I must assume that he must have been watching Israeli television, in particular, cable television which certainly has become a mirror of Israeli culture judging by the number of hours the average individual spends watching it.

I cannot believe the level TV has sunk to, with such an incredible amount of gratuitous sex, erotica and violence. On the night of April 19, a full-blown strip-tease was featured at prime time on Yehuda Barkan's program. And this is but one example. Why is this allowed? Why is there no outcry? What has happened to our moral fiber that the public allows this sleaze to be shown?

In the US, the TV station would be bombarded with angry protests from public organizations and individuals alike. Let us do the same. I call on women's groups, religious organizations and individuals to protest the crude messages that TV is bringing to us and our youth.

DAVID GEVINT

Ra'anana.

SUPPORT ALIYA

Sir - There are those who complain that the current aliyah from Russia is not Zionist. This is an unfair generalization that ignores the individuality of the immigrants. Clearly, every national group contains many kinds of people and it is wrong to make sweeping statements that dismiss the variations in attitudes and feelings within a large community.

There are, in fact, two types of Zionists among the new immigrants: those who have acquired their Zionist ideals in their native country and those who have developed them since their arrival here. Although they may not constitute a majority, the aliyah from Russia includes a large group of people who belong to the first category.

If we wish to increase the number of people in the second category, we must support and encourage the new immigrants. Much depends on how we behave towards them, how we serve as role models and how we make them feel welcome. It is unrealistic to expect the new immigrants to be Zionist if they do not feel wanted. Unfortunately, many of them believe that they are being cast aside simply because of their nationality. Their feelings are expressed by the oft-repeated quote: "There they did not want us because we were Jews; here they do not want us because we are Russians." It is truly heartbreaking to hear such comments.

The media have given the current aliyah a bad name. For the last five years, they have focused almost exclusively on negative aspects of the immigration wave and have all but ignored the main benefits that the new immigrants have brought to the country. Very little has been written about the dedication with which they have served in the army; how they have, in many cases, sacrificed their lives for their new country;

how they have made it possible to reduce the maximum age of reserve army service; how they have contributed to the 30 percent growth the economy has experienced since the aliyah began; how their industriousness has improved the productivity of our factories and the quality of goods turned out; how they have raised the level of culture and music in the country; and even how they have vastly improved the nation's prospects for Olympic medals. All these contribute to the security, quality of life and vitality of Israel.

We should each ask ourselves what we have done to help the aliyah. When we do decide to help, we should remember to treat the immigrants as individuals. Each person is different and we must not allow preconceived notions to prevent us from helping those who deserve our support.

KATHY KAY

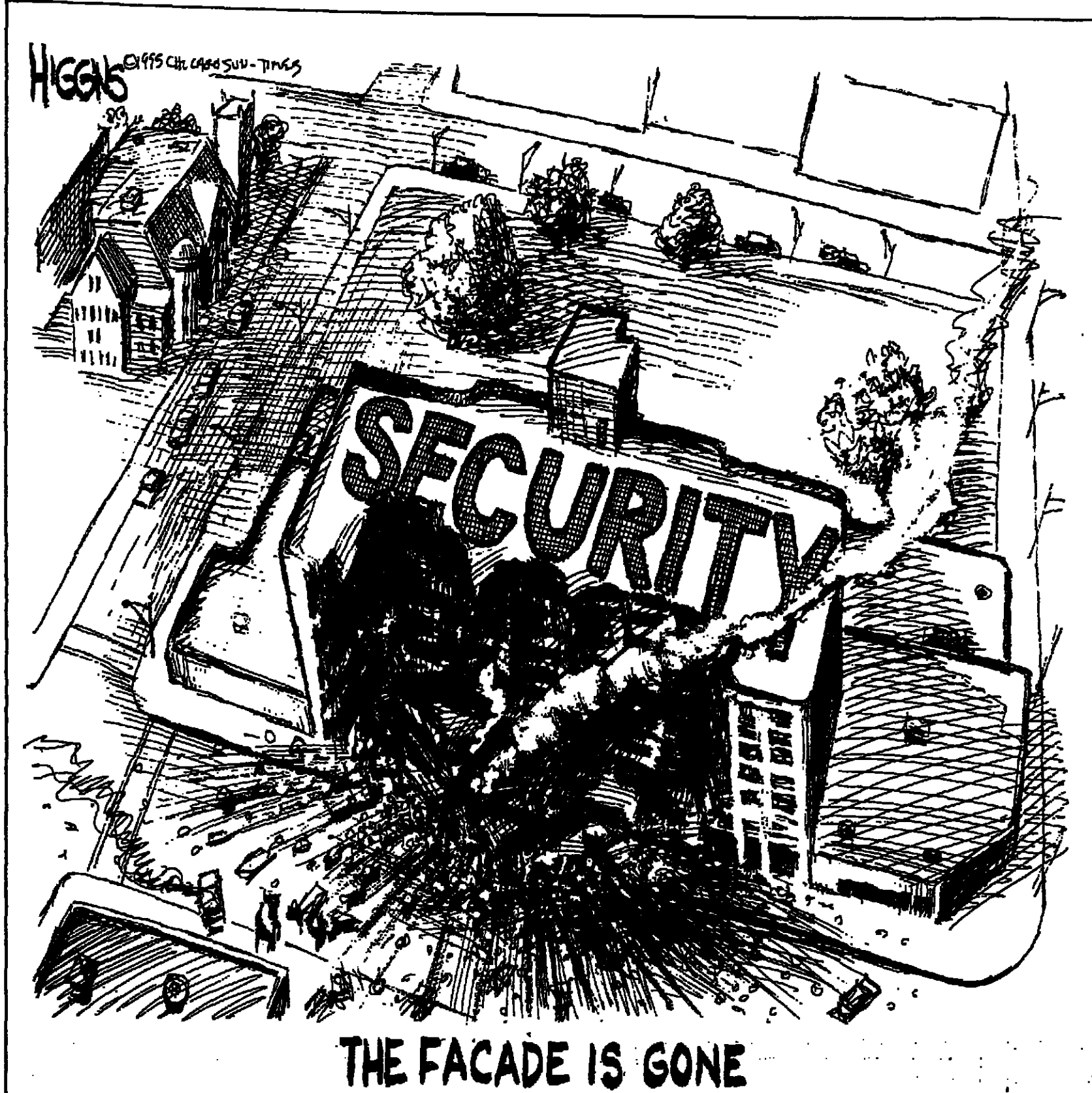
Petah Tikva.

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Please be brief. The Editor retains the right to shorten letters. Only a selection can be published and none individually acknowledged. Letters not accepted for publication will be returned only upon request and inclusion of a self-addressed stamped envelope.

AMERICAN OUTLOOK

Sunday, April 30, 1995



THE FACADE IS GONE

More than 100 people were killed and hundreds of others were reported injured or missing after a car bomb destroyed a nine-story federal building in downtown Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on April 19. A number of children in a second floor nursery were killed by the blast. Federal authorities arrested and charged two men last week who are reportedly affiliated with a Michigan militia. The bombing was characterized as the worst in 75 years.

Heartland Tragedy

Clinton takes leadership position in wake

During a campaign year, President Clinton's supporters hope his management of the deadliest terrorist incident in American history will re-establish his relevance on an issue where he need not deal with ideology. Even though the terrorists of a bombing that destroyed a nine-story federal building in Oklahoma City turned out to be of domestic origin, the president still was able to exercise command and control over the situation while dominating national television.

BY ROBERT NOVAK

While nobody trivialized the horror and calamity of the Oklahoma City massacre, the immediate reaction by Democratic politicians was that it would give Bill Clinton an opportunity to display effective leadership at a low point in his presidency.

The tragic bombing came just 12 hours after a news conference by President Clinton that was intended to establish his place in a government dominated by the Republican 104th Congress but actually had the opposite effect. The Washington Post front-page headline "The President Is Relevant" made Democrats outside the White House blanch because it gave precisely the reverse impression of what was desired.

The Oklahoma City disaster came at a time when Clinton was struggling with self-definition. Bombarded with conflicting advice of confrontation and accommodation, he seemed to be wrestling with himself.

The president was decisive and in command, even though trembling with rage, after the bombing. One Democratic loyalist gave this assessment: "It was not Reaganesque, but it was as good as Bush would have done."

But this same Democrat had hoped for Clinton to transcend George Bush. Such supporters of the president dreamed of Commander in Chief Clinton sending bombing planes over a sinister foreign capital to atone for this stain on our national honor. Even though the terrorists turned out to be of domestic origin, the president still was able to exercise command and control while dominating national television. He may even be able to blast the ideological right for inspiring the outrage.

But that may not be enough, considering his recent news conference. When Clinton said, "The president is relevant," he brought back memories of Richard Nixon saying, "I am not a crook."

Clinton's assertion was undercut when reporters' questions focused on the Republican congressional agenda.

He had called only this fourth prime-time presidential news conference in a continuing effort to regain the initiative following a first 100 days controlled by House Speaker Newt Gingrich. But unable to promise that any hard news would be made, the White House got the live television it wanted only from CBS among the three broadcast networks.

While the president's aides appeared satisfied by their chief's performance, worried Democrats outside his staff saw an essentially unplanned press event.

Once again, the president flinched from an ideological confrontation with Republicans,

deploring "the old debate about whether there should be more government or less."

But that is the essence of the national political debate, and Clinton seems all the less relevant when he tries to avoid it. His denial may explain the much-leaked report that he has returned to heavy-duty consulting with Dick Morris, the Connecticut-based political consultant/pollster who was a principal manager of Clinton's Arkansas campaigns.

Morris has handled both Republican and Democratic candidates and started out himself as a liberal Democrat on Manhattan's West Side. But he has been much more clearly a Republican of late. Clinton had used him to set up a relationship with Richard M. Nixon.

It is understandable that Clinton, unable to cope with the fiercely polarized politics of Washington, seeks out a politically androgynous adviser who guided him through the ideologically fuzzy politics of Arkansas in the '80s. But that underlines the question of the president's relevance.

Clinton's supporters hope his management of the deadliest terrorist incident in American history will re-establish his relevance on an issue where he need not deal with ideology. This looked like the "event" that every failing incumbent president seeks to take advantage of in the closing weeks of a campaign. But coming 18 months early, it probably does not resolve Bill Clinton's problems.

Robert Novak is a nationally syndicated columnist of the Chicago Sun-Times.

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Why do some people support Holocaust denial?

BY ALAN DERSHOWITZ

What would motivate a newspaper to question a Holocaust survivor's vivid account of seeing her mother and brother gunned down by a gang of Polish partisans several months after the Nazis left Poland? A chilling account by Professor Yaffa Sonenson Eliach recently appeared in a national magazine. She described how her parents and baby brother had managed to survive the Nazi occupation and returned to their small village named Eishyshok (the Polish spelling is Ejszyski). Four months later, a band of Polish partisans stormed the family home. Yaffa, who was 7 years old, peeked through a crack in a closet and watched as her mother pleaded: "Kill me first, not my baby." The brave partisans first fired nine bullets into the baby and then 15 into the mother.

The town of Eishyshok originally had about 4,000 Jews. Yaffa was one of only 29 who survived the genocide begun by the Nazis and completed by the Polish partisans. Nor was this the only place where Polish partisans murdered Jews after Poland had been liberated from the Nazis. In the city of Kielce, local Poles murdered more than 40 Jewish Holocaust survivors. In other Polish cities and towns Polish killers succeeded in discouraging the few survivors of the Nazi genocide from returning to their homes and recovering their meager possessions.

The Post Eagle also calls Nobel winner Elie Wiesel's account of his liberation from Auschwitz "a lie."

All this is well known and widely documented. Indeed, Yaffa Eliach's village has been memorialized by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. A three-story "tower of faces" has been constructed out of 1,500 photographs taken in Eishyshok before the war and gathered from descendants of Eishyshok's murdered Jews. Among the best known descendants of Eishyshok's Jewish population are Laurence Bacall and Ed Asner. Professor Eliach has managed to produce photographs of fully 92 percent of Eishyshok's murdered population — an historical documentation unparalleled in Holocaust evidence, since most of the faceless victims left no visible reminders of their vibrant lives before the Holocaust.

Now comes The Post Eagle, a racist newspaper published in Clifton, N.J., which claims to serve the interests of "the American-Polish community." The lead editorial in its April 12, 1995, issue disputes Eliach's entire account and even denies that the town of Eishyshok ever existed — despite the photographic evidence. It also calls Nobel winner Elie Wiesel's account of his liberation from Auschwitz "a lie."

Nor is this episode of Holocaust denial an isolated one for The Post Eagle. For decades, its editor, Chester Grabowski, has rallied against Jewish "claims" of genocide and argued that the real Holocaust was what he has called the "Polocaust" — "the Polish citizens were the targets of Hitler's premeditated order to kill all men, women and children that were Polish." Despite the documented historical records and apologies from Lech Walesa, the pope, and other Polish patriots, the Post Eagle disputes all claims that any Pole was ever complicitous in the killing of any Jew, and argues that Jews are trying to profit from false claims of victimization.

Mr. Grabowski also rallies against blacks, Hispanics and other minorities, but his special animus is reserved for Jews, whom he calls "vermin." His bigoted newspaper has run greetings from the Ku Klux Klan, illustrated with a drawing of Santa Claus wearing a Klan hood, as well as from self-proclaimed neo-Nazis.

Why then, you may ask, do elected officials, church officials and other decent people continue to advertise in this racist and anti-Semitic rag? Some, such as freshman Congressman Bill Martini, can plead ignorance. When I called his office, his assistant Allen Raymond expressed genuine shock, upon hearing about The Post Eagle's bigoted editorial policy. He promised that his boss would never again advertise in a newspaper that "does not in any way reflect the views of the Congressman." But other veteran elected official and church officers surely must know who they are supporting.

The Bergen Record — the region's most distinguished newspaper — has denounced The Post Eagle as full of "vitriolic anti-Semitic diatribes," and its 30-year record as "a history of hate." Virtually every editorial violates the Vatican's ban against the sin of anti-Semitism. The pope would be appalled by its contents. Yet individual Catholic priests continue to write for it and support it financially, in clear violation of Vatican policy.

The time has come for all good men and women to stop supporting this blemish on the good name of Polish Catholics. The time has come to expose The Post Eagle's brand of Holocaust denial for what it is — a bigoted and anti-Semitic label which deserves no serious audience among people of good will. The time has come for those public and church officials who continue to advertise in its racist pages either to explain their complicity in sin, or to end it.

Alan M. Dershowitz is a professor of law at Harvard University. His newest books are "The Advocate's Devil" (Warner Books) and "The Abuse Excuse" (Little, Brown & Company).

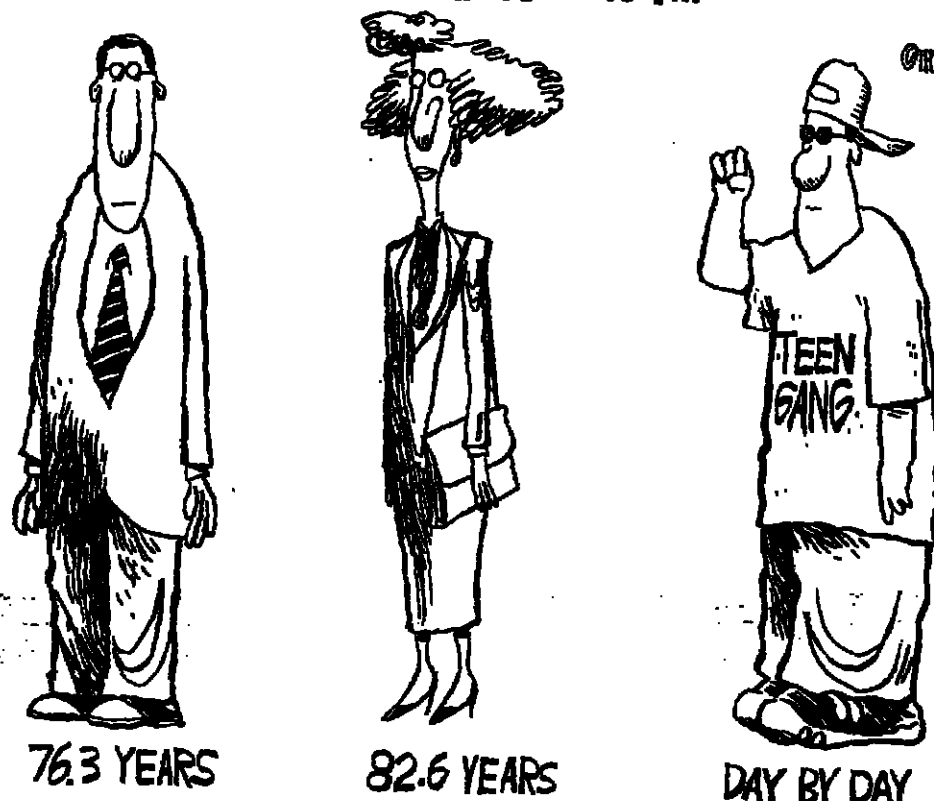
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EDITORIAL CARTOONS



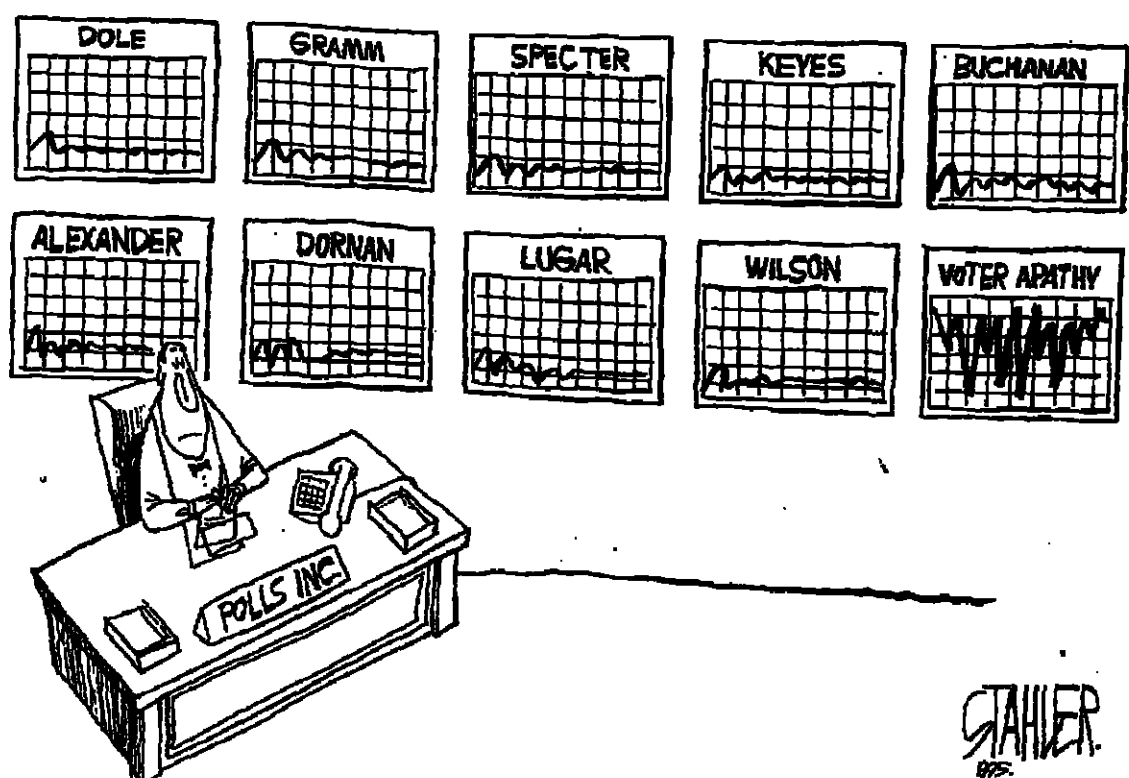
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LIFE EXPECTANCY...



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1995

NEWS ITEM: POSTAL SERVICE ISSUES A NIXON STAMP.



STAHLER
1995

Robertson argues anti-semitism charge

The Rev. Pat Robertson, nationally-recognized evangelist, has been chastised for the following remark: "Intolerance in any quarter is wrong, but inasmuch as we are able, we must ensure that the trend throughout the 1990s remains in favor of a Jewish homeland in Israel and not for the elimination for the Jews."

BY MICHAEL KINSLEY

The controversy continues over whether Rev. Pat Robertson's bizarre rantings about the depredations of the Rothschilds and the Warburgs make him an anti-Semite. In a way, this debate has been a useful distraction for Robertson, since it has overshadowed the issue of whether he is a complete nut case. Based on the same evidence, that is a much easier question. Yet, as the leader of the Christian Coalition, he remains the most important person in the most powerful faction within the Republican Party. If this bothers the party's leading lights they have not said so.

"Inasmuch as we are able, says Pat Robertson, we should strive to avoid the elimination of the Jews. He means, of course, insofar as we are able."

On April 12, The Wall Street Journal editorial page published an apology by Robertson, which casts light on both the anti-Semitism and lunacy issues. One sentence in particular caught my eye. Wonderfully mad, it is a self-quote from Robertson's 1990 book, *The New Millennium*. In other words, Robertson himself has chosen to highlight this sentence as a sample of his thought, and proof that he is not anti-Semitic. The sentence rewards close textual analysis. Here it is: "Intolerance in any quarter is wrong, but inasmuch as we are able, we must ensure that the trend throughout the 1990s remains in favor of a Jewish homeland in Israel and not for the elimination for the Jews."

It is hard to know where to begin to sample this sentence's delights. Perhaps it is best, in the Hebrew manner, to start at the end and move backwards. We immediately face a grammatical problem. It should, of course, be "the elimination of the Jews," not "the elimination for the Jews," which is an oddly arch way of putting it. Elimination would not, on balance, be "for" the Jews. To be sure, one might possibly say, "elimination for the Jews," omitting the first "the," in the sense of, "It's curtains for the Jews" — but this would be a rakish construction, surely inappropriate to the subject under discussion.

This brings us to the nub of the matter. Interpretation is always tricky, but Robertson seems to be suggesting here that he opposes the elimination of the Jews. That is nice, and I believe him. He even opposes a "trend" toward the elimination of the Jews, which is especially comforting. But as evidence of an absence of anti-Semitism, it is a bit lacking in oomph. Does Robertson think that anti-Semitism consists of wishing for the "elimination" of the Jews? This is setting the bar awfully high. Anti-Semitism has, of course, taken that form. But Hitler should not be allowed to spoil anti-Semitism for everyone else. Indeed, the fact that Robertson presents his opposition to the elimination of the Jews as evidence of a lack of anti-Semitism arguably is evidence of the opposite. If someone feels moved to declare, even in a sincere spirit of reassurance, "Look, I really don't want to kill you" — does that demonstrate empathy, or something more sinister?

Then there is Robertson's unusual framework of analysis. There are, apparently, only two options for "the trend throughout the 1990s." One is "a Jewish homeland in Israel." The other is "elimination for the Jews." Between these two options, Robertson declares, he prefers a Jewish homeland over elimination of the Jews. This leaves open the question of how he rates a trend toward elimination for the Jews compared with other possible Jewish trends.

What, after all, does he mean by a trend in favor of a Jewish homeland in Israel? There already is a Jewish homeland in Israel. It is not in need of a trend toward it. The concept is nonsense, unless Robertson means a trend toward Israel becoming the Jewish homeland — i.e., a trend toward Jews abandoning

other countries and moving to Israel. There is a strain of fundamentalist Christian thought which holds that the second coming will arrive when all the Jews return to the Holy Land, where they will be destroyed in some sort of cataclysm (thus achieving both of Robertson's options simultaneously). Presumably Robertson is not endorsing that particular theory here. But, at the very least, he seems to be adopting the view of certain Zionist extremists that there can be no safe place for Jews outside of Israel — that the options are Israel or "elimination." Such a view may not be anti-Semitic, even when held by a non-Jew, but it is not exactly the Republican party line.

Next, in our backward journey through this remarkable sentence, consider the strange qualifying phrase, "inasmuch as we are able." Inasmuch as we are able, says Pat Robertson, we should strive to avoid the elimination of the Jews. He means, of course, insofar as we are able. "Inasmuch as we are able," read literally, would mean that, since we happen to be able to, we might as well avoid the elimination of the Jews. But Robertson clearly is not saying that. He is suggesting that he is not at all sure we will be able to avoid the elimination of the Jews. Do you detect a

"It reminds me of signs that used to be posted, many years ago, in Harrod's Department Store in London: 'Please Try Not to Smoke.' Do try not to eliminate the Jews, but, well, flesh is weak, and we are all sinners."

note of noble resignation — an almost audible sigh — here? There's a sort of implied advance permission to fail, as if success is a hopeless ideal and the effort is what counts. It reminds me of signs that used to be posted, many years ago, in Harrod's Department Store in London: "Please Try Not to Smoke." Do try not to eliminate the Jews, but, well, flesh is weak, and we are all sinners. A body can only do so much.

Consider, finally, the opening clause: "Intolerance in any quarter is wrong, but inasmuch as we are able" we shouldn't eliminate the Jews, etc., etc. Why "but"? Surely conventional logic would suggest that the proper connector between these two thoughts is "and": Intolerance is wrong and we shouldn't eliminate the Jews. (Or possibly even "and therefore" we shouldn't, etc. etc.) What concept is Pat Robertson trying to express when he says that intolerance is wrong but we shouldn't eliminate the Jews?

My only thought here is that perhaps Robertson intended this introductory qualification as a pre-emptive strike against critics who might otherwise accuse him of implicitly condoning other forms of intolerance with his fetishistic insistence that we must strive, as much as we are able, to avoid the elimination of the Jews. As a believer in the true meaning of civil rights — before it was corrupted by civil rights activists — one must be careful not to seem to be endorsing special treatment for any race, creed or color. We must strive toward ensuring that trends run against the elimination of all ethnic groups equally. Of course this equality must be of opportunity, and not of result. Every ethnic group must have an equal opportunity not to be eliminated. Whether they make the most of this opportunity is up to them.

Or something like that.

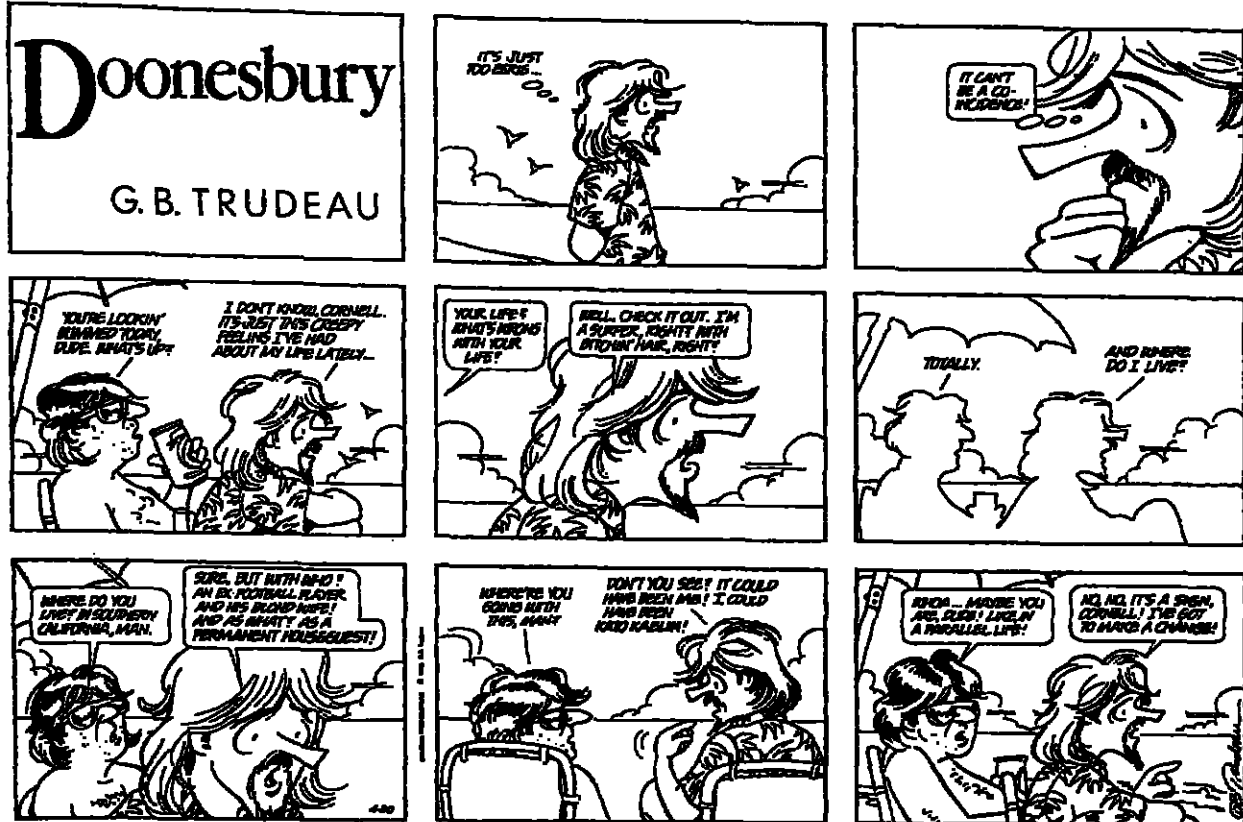
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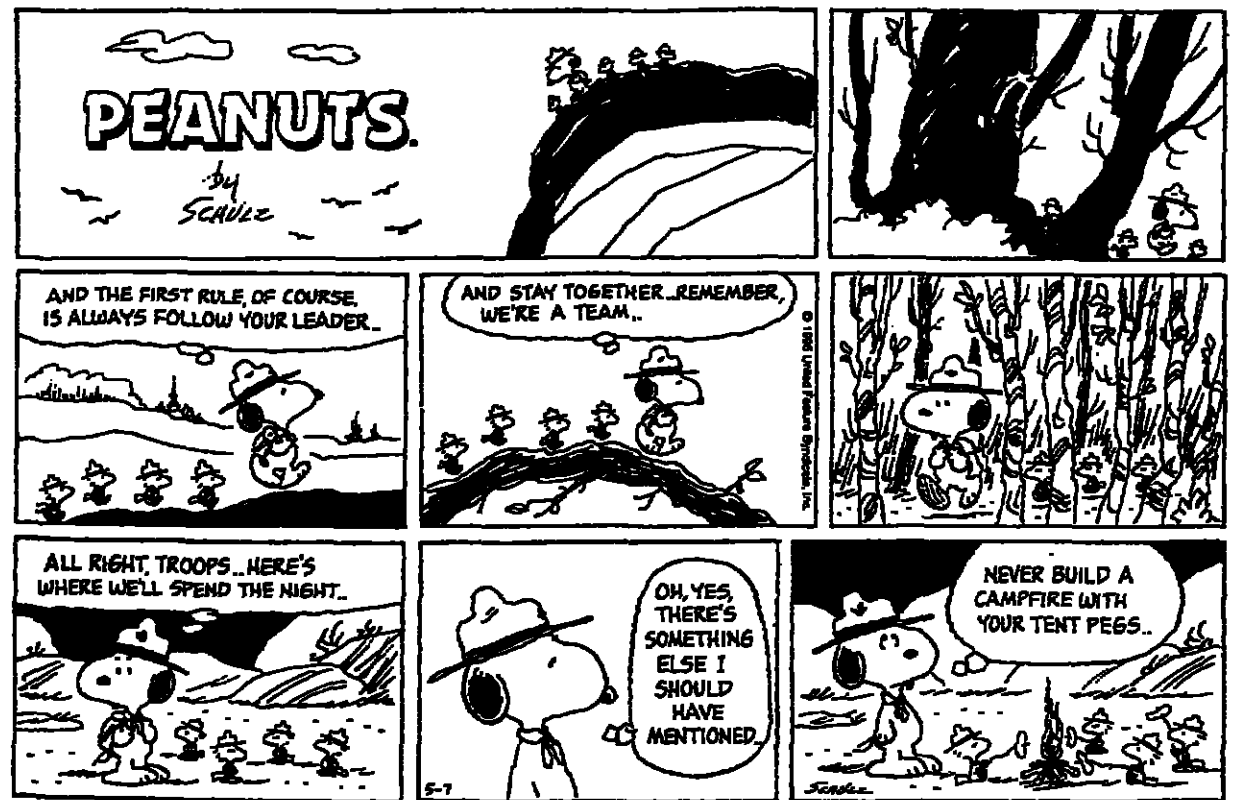
Doonesbury

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PEANUTS

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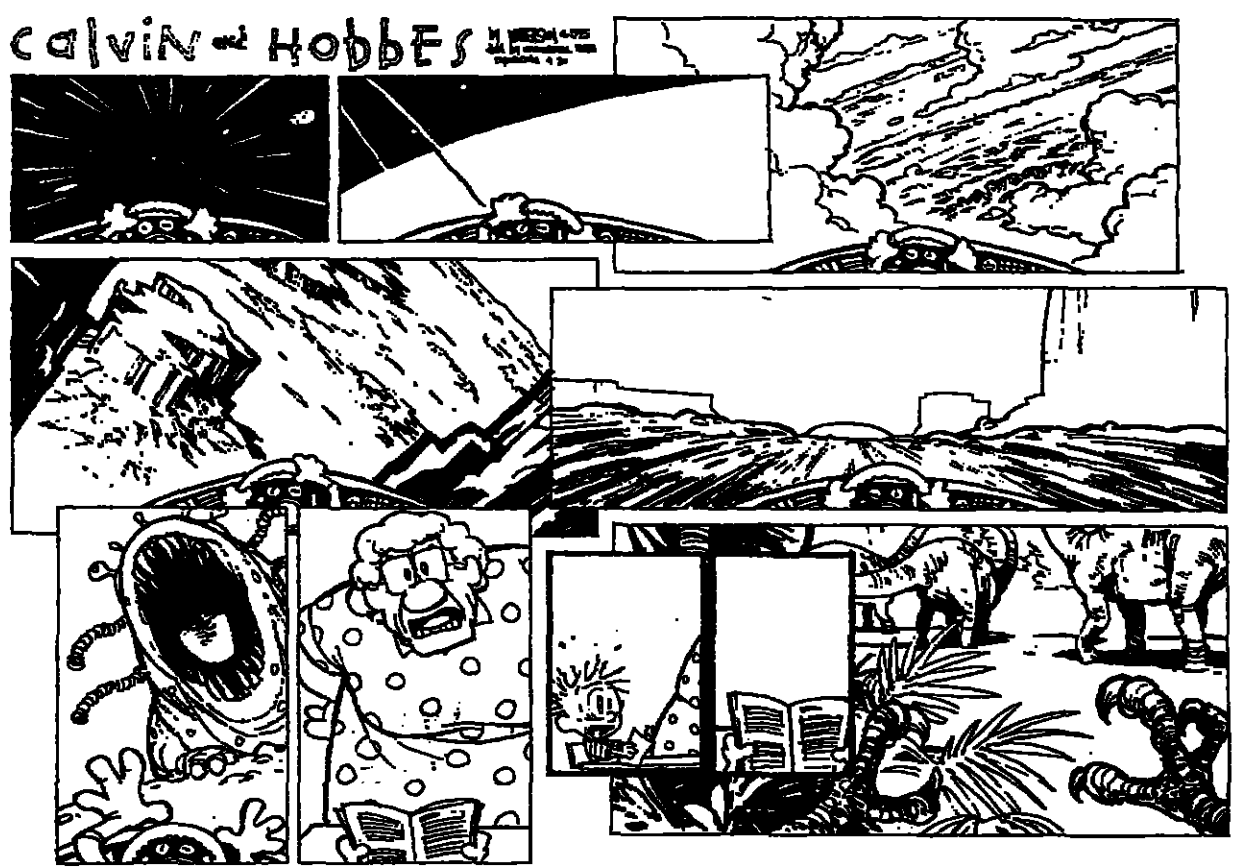
Strip

By JEFF MEYER

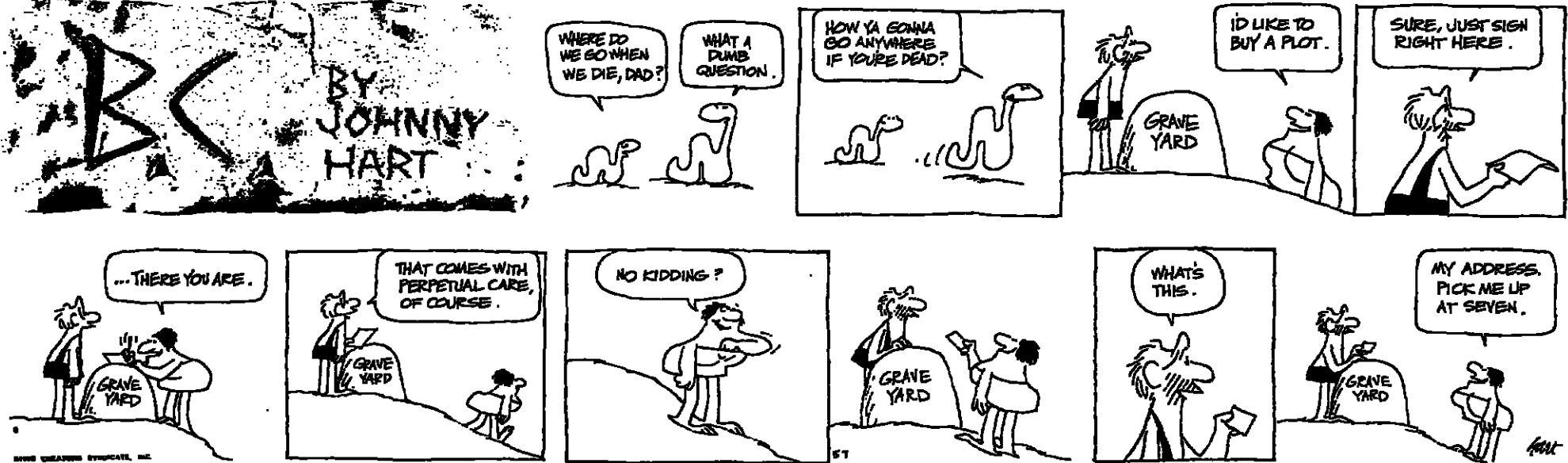


Calvin & Hobbes

by BILLY GUNN

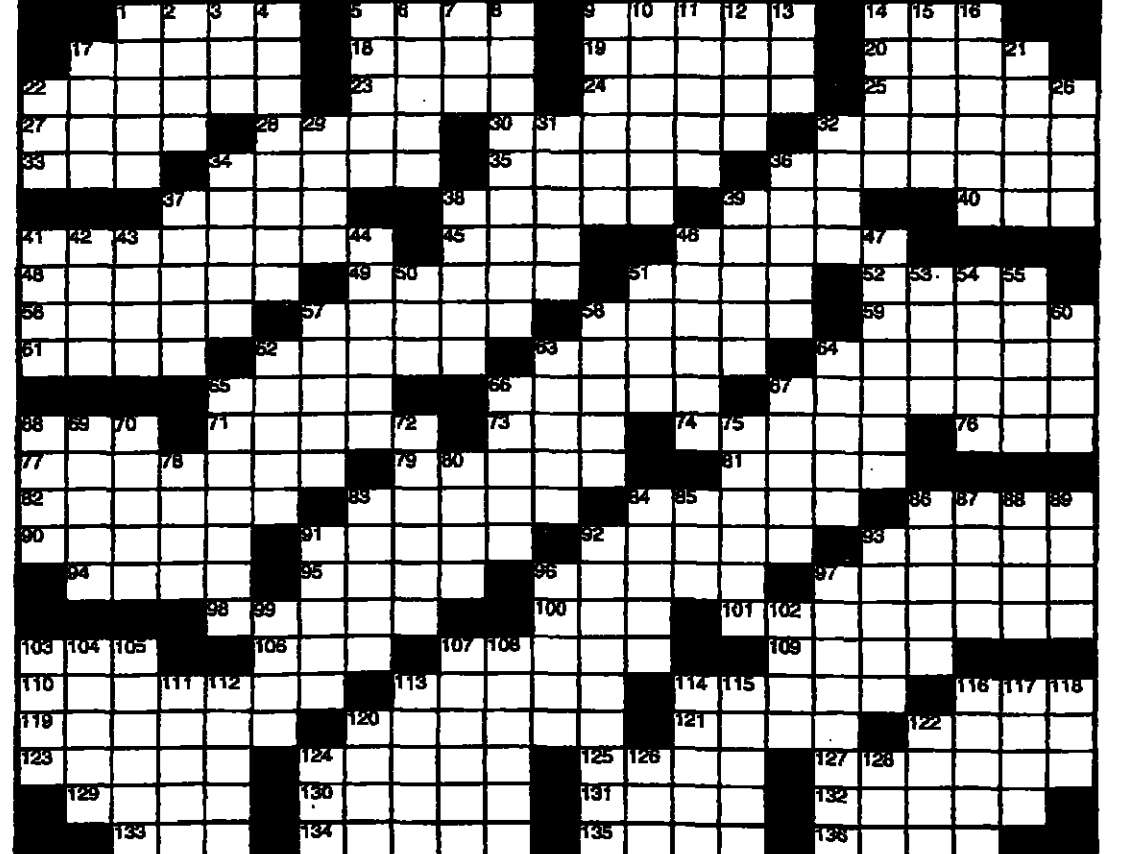


BY JOHNNY HART



TODAY'S SUNDAY PUZZLE

- ACROSS**
- 1 Type of machine
 - 5 — lens
 - 9 Overweight
 - 14 The girl
 - 17 Curtain material
 - 18 Post Pound
 - 19 Jeane, fabric
 - 20 Watch over
 - 22 Cash in (coupons)
 - 23 Farm building
 - 24 Jack Sprat could — fat
 - 25 Provide (a school) with an income
 - 27 Golf club
 - 28 Young salmon
 - 30 Cooking spice
 - 32 Type of envelope
 - 33 Actress Rita —
 - 34 Sleeveless garment
 - 35 Chemical compound
 - 36 Idle talk
 - 37 Irish islands
 - 38 Tactical unit
 - 39 Upper limb
 - 40 Actor — "Kookoo" bymas
 - 41 Greek philosopher
 - 45 "Man Film"
 - 46 Greek epic
 - 48 Different
 - 49 Dutch flower
 - 51 Division word
 - 52 Cain's nephew
 - 56 Nearby
 - 57 is wearing
 - 58 Military officer
 - 59 Author Sinclair —
 - 61 Jekyll's alter ego
 - 62 Wisconsin college
 - 63 Fate
 - 64 Sacred
 - 65 Actor James — Jones
 - 66 Refresh
 - 67 Police
 - 68 Black cuckoo
- DOWN**
- 1 Biblical city
 - 2 Charge on property
 - 3 Grand — Opry
 - 4 Machinist's pattern
 - 5 Striped animal
 - 6 — Mountains, Arkansas
 - 7 Hockey's Bobby —
 - 8 Display dummy
 - 9 American folk singer
 - 10 Smiled broadly
 - 11 Go inside
 - 12 Wastle
 - 13 Cornelian Philips
 - 14 Purkin
 - 15 Reddish dye
 - 16 Salad ingredient
 - 17 Alice's co-worker
 - 21 Dashed out
 - 22 Equip
 - 23 Hospital section
 - 28 Top-notch
 - 31 Seize power from
 - 32 "Remember —"
 - 34 Fast-flying bird
 - 35 Proceeding
 - 37 Come about
 - 38 Legation
 - 39 Los —, California
 - 41 As — in nail
 - 42 Sole
 - 43 Bumpkin
 - 44 Cash commodity
 - 46 Harm
 - 47 Samson and —
 - 50 G's club
 - 51 "Chalk"
 - 52 Character
 - 53 Russian river
 - 54 In debt
 - 55 From that time
 - 57 New employee
 - 58 Relocated
 - 60 Appear
 - 62 Come from behind
 - 63 Sink part
 - 64 Do the cha-cha
 - 65 On-the-loose convict
 - 66 Sweetener
 - 67 Ford or White
 - 68 Amo. —, smart
 - 69 Mean
 - 70 Within: pref.
 - 72 Garden tool
 - 75 Composer Alan Jay
 - 76 Seed cover
 - 80 Quin's lens
 - 83 Propose to propose?
 - 84 Term —
 - 85 Pione post
 - 86 San Antonio landmark
 - 87 Pro —
 - 88 — — a man with —
 - 89 Miami's county
 - 91 Analyze (an ore)
 - 92 Unexpected warrior
 - 93 Citrus fruit
 - 96 — Polo
 - 97 Governor Maugham
 - 98 Church section
 - 102 Seep
 - 103 Jump
 - 104 Capital of Jordan
 - 105 Across Marie —
 - 107 Vase maker
 - 108 Blood vessel
 - 111 Fastbug's crime
 - 112 Play part
 - 113 Baseball's Salcher —
 - 114 Pioneer of ballistics
 - 115 Egg-shaped
 - 116 Singer Bonnie —
 - 117 Butler or Bancroft
 - 118 Jinx
 - 120 Melody
 - 122 Scorch
 - 124 "My Gal —"
 - 125 Under the weather
 - 126 Anita's org.



AMERICAN OUTLOOK
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Newt rolls back FDR's environmental success

BY HANNA ROSIN

This month, thousands of environmentalists were expected to make a pilgrimage to the nation's capital for the 25th anniversary of Earth Day. In typical green fashion, the event will likely be less a celebration than a wake. Speakers will warn of imminent ecological doom. Mary Chapin Carpenter will sing plaintively of lost forests and polluted streams. This is the sort of alarmism that has beset the environmental movement in recent years, and there is much that is irritating about it. Of all protest groups, environmentalists have been least able to take yes for an answer. After all, as Gregg Easterbrook points out in his lucid new book, *A Moment on the Earth*, environmental legislation has been one of the few, unalloyed triumphs of Great Society liberalism. America is cleaner, healthier and more efficient than it was 25 years ago — and a lot of it has to do with environmental legislation. Do we really need more sermons from tree huggers?

Well, actually, the answer in 1995 may be yes. The past 100 days have seen a concerted attempt to roll back 25 years of environmental successes. By and large, Newt Gingrich's party shares little with Teddy Roosevelt; for most of the Newtoids, the interests of business take precedence. The first clue came when the chairmanship of the House Natural Resources Committee fell to Don Young of Alaska, whose office looks like a hunting lodge, with about 50 stuffed moose and elk lining the walls. Young has been waiting for years to wreak revenge on environmentalists, or, as he calls them, "the self-centered, waffle-stomping, Harvard-graduating

bunch of idiots." Pleased to meet you, too. His first target is the Endangered Species Act, which he calls "out of whack." Soon after assuming his chair, Young created a task force to rewrite the act, and staffed it with loyalists. A more dangerous assault on the act is already underway, however, in the form of the "Job Creation and Wage Enhancement" bill. Using two devices — regulatory reform and takings — this bill acts as a legislative neutron bomb, leaving the environmental legislation in place yet making it impossible to enforce.

The first series of measures, while billed as "regulatory reform," actually opens the door for endless litigation, allowing companies to sue before regulations have been issued, based on preliminary rulings. It also lowers the bar for determining which decisions are subject to review, from those whose impact would cost \$100 million to those costing \$25 million. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates it would need 982 new bureaucrats and an extra \$220 million to enforce these rules. So much for leaner government.

The past 100 days have seen a concerted attempt to roll back 25 years of environmental successes.

The takings provision requires an agency to compensate landowners whenever environmental regulations (on species or wetlands) reduce the value of the owner's land by as little as 20 percent. If you buy a wetland, claim you were planning to build a mall on it and then complain, you'll be entitled to full compensa-

tion. Since the government can't allow itself to be liable for such potentially huge claims, the upshot is the gutting of environmental controls.

As it happens, conservatives' horror stories of a spotted owl landing in a farmer's backyard and crushing hopes of a new barn are extremely rare. In the 21 years since the Endangered Species Act was passed, only one person has filed a takings complaint. This is because the act as it stands is perfectly flexible: Developers can make up for environmental damage they cause by enhancing animal habitats elsewhere, or by designing a conservation plan.

For all Young's railing against "liberal special interests" in the name of ordinary "six-pack Joes," it's not hard to guess whose interests the Republicans have at heart. In March, after Young's task force held a town meeting with the citizens of Louisiana, the members were treated to dinner, as *The Washington Post* reported, courtesy of Louisiana Land Exploration Co. and the American Sugar Cane League. In April Sen. Slade Gorton of Washington unveiled a bill to scrap major provisions of the Endangered Species Act. As members of his staff admitted, they saved themselves the trouble of drafting the text by handing the task to lawyers from the timber, mining, ranching and utility interests.

The good news is the Republicans may have gone too far. A recent study by the Environment Information Center shows that people are unaware of the GOP changes and react with horror when they learn of them. The measure of the green movement's success, then, will not be how many tie-dye wearers turn out for Earth Day rallies, but how many six-pack Joes, with 25 years of environmental improvement behind them, call their representatives this spring and tell them to lay off.

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Award-winning story causes debate

BY MICKEY KAUS

The New Republic — my employer — just won the National Magazine Award for "Excellence in Public Interest." We won it for Elizabeth ("Betsy") McCaughey's articles on the Clinton health plan. McCaughey "waded through all 1,364 pages of the health care reform package," the judges said, and her "carefully researched" pieces "stopped the bill in its intellectual tracks."

So why don't I feel more like celebrating? Is it because my colleague Michael Kinsley denounced the initial McCaughey piece as a "screed," and James Fallows, writing in *The Atlantic*, said its claims were "simply false," and Theodore Marmor, professor of public policy at Yale, told me his fellow health experts of left, right and center consider McCaughey's articles "risible"?

Maybe all these people are just jealous. If they aren't, though, the award to McCaughey has not only validated a misleading view of the Clinton health plan, but also a peculiar idea of how journalists should affect public debate. To help resolve this issue, I have waded through all 9,000 words of Betsy McCaughey's critique.

Was there "No Exit"? "If you walk into a doctor's office and ask for treatment... you must show proof that you are enrolled in one of the health plans offered by the government," McCaughey wrote, describing Clinton's proposal. "The doctor can be paid only by the plan, not by you." Unless your plan is approved, McCaughey warned, you couldn't pay Doctor Welby to diagnose your stomach pain, even if you were willing to pay him yourself. Hence "No Exit," the title of her cover story.

It turns out McCaughey misread the bill. It did ban Doctor Welby from accepting both a payment from an insurance plan and extra payment from a patient. (The idea was to control costs by forcing doctors to accept insurance money as payment-in-full.) But if you paid Welby entirely from your own funds, you could pay him to do anything you wanted.

The obvious analogy, notes Clinton adviser Paul Starr, was to educate. Everybody pays taxes to support public schools. Likewise, everyone in Clinton's scheme would have to pay for mandatory insurance. But if you don't like the public schools, you can use your own money to send your kid to private school. And if you didn't like the doctors your insurance company paid for, in Clinton's plan you could go out and hire your own doctors. You can argue that Clinton should have offered more choice. But the force of McCaughey's article derived from her claim that there was "no exit" from his mandatory insurance plans. She was wrong.

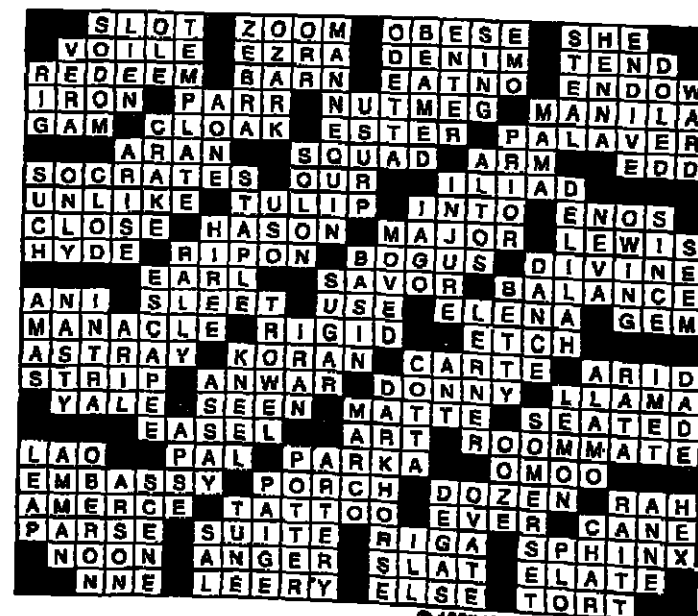
Would the plan doom fee-for-service medicine? In "No Exit," McCaughey said "fee-for-service (choose-your-own-doctor) insurance" would be doomed because the Clinton bill "outlaws" plans costing more than 20 percent above average. But the bill didn't outlaw such plans. It said the government didn't have to offer them. In practice, Starr points out, fee-for-service plans aren't that much more expensive, and government officials would have a hard time dropping even an expensive plan that nevertheless attracted a big clientele willing to pay for it.

Did the plan ominously threaten privacy? McCaughey made a big to-do over the bill's requirement that doctors report "clinical encounters" to a "national data bank containing the medical histories of all Americans." But virtually all Republican and Democratic reform plans provide for reporting such data, which is sloshing around the current private insurance system already. Clinton's bill actually had stronger privacy protections than its competitors. Individual records of treatment are necessary to help patients, who may have multiple insurers, get their benefits. And wouldn't it be nice to have the data that would enable doctors to determine, say, if pallidotomy, the controversial new Parkinson's disease treatment, actually works?

McCaughy's "data bank" hysteria illustrates the pitfalls of the I-know-nothing-about-this-subject-but-I've-read-the-whole-bill methodology. A more comical example was her horror at discovering that the Clinton plan would pay only for "medically necessary or appropriate" treatment — as if all insurance policies don't contain a similar restriction now. A more damaging example was her attribution to the Clinton plan of all the horrors of HMO life — as if Americans weren't already being forced into HMOs by the millions.

I don't mean to leave the impression that McCaughey's efforts were worthless. She did unearth some juicy provisions, like one steering medical training slots to "racial or ethnic minority groups." She got some things right. But she got a lot wrong. In the process, she completely distorted the debate on the biggest public policy issue of 1994. Give her a medal.

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Kollek: A man with 'Viennese optimism'

THERE AND THEN
SRAYA SHAPIRO

VIENNESE optimism—that's why Teddy Kollek is unable to understand the Arabs, says Kollek's former deputy mayor, Meron Benvenisti. "Kollek considered the intifada as a personal revolt against him—how dare they!" Jerusalem is a fanatic, ruthless city, says Benvenisti, an arena of permanent struggle. But Kollek was the great comforter who believed he could inculcate his optimism in others and persuade them that felicity awaited around the corner of hate and destruction.

Benvenisti speaks his mind to Ruth Kolodny-Bachi, who interviewed scores of people for her *Ze'hu Teddy* ("This is Teddy: A Biography by Friends," Ministry of Defense Publishing House, 256 pp.).

Benvenisti comes across as a man of no illusions. Coexistence in the city is impossible. Peace prevailed in Jerusalem only occasionally over its 4,000 years of existence, he says. Ever since the time of the kings and the prophets, seekers of absolute truth in Jerusalem have confronted each other.

Teddy's experiment seemed to succeed, Benvenisti says, and then one day everything went up in the smoke of burning tires.

Still, Teddy does not admit defeat. Redemption will come. Perhaps not now, perhaps in a hundred years. But come it will.

TEDDY WAS not born in Vienna, but in a small Hungarian town, where his father supervised timber sales for a firm owned by the Rothschilds. Alfred Kollek was a sportsman and a Zionist, and called his firstborn Theodore. But nobody ever called his son anything but Teddy.

He was a lousy student who didn't like his violin lessons, either. But he was an avid reader, his younger brother Paul told Kolodny-Bachi. And he took his membership in *Blau-Weiss* (Blue-White), a Jewish youth movement, very seriously. To help his local chapter, Teddy pawned things he found at home—his father's among others. Those who knew him then say Teddy never ruminated on the difference between Dov Borochov and Brenner, but charmed colleagues, especially the girls, with his demeanor. "He looked like a Nordic god," recalls Artur Mendelovich, alias Amos Manor, ultimately head of the General Security Service.

Teddy took notice of a black-haired girl who washed the floor at the *Blau-Weiss* clubhouse. She was Tamar Schwartz, whose grandfather headed a rabbinical seminary. Eventually she became Mrs. Kollek.

WHEN THE young couple



David Ben-Gurion warned Teddy Kollek (right), an uninhibited 'Westerner,' not to move too quickly into the West's camp in 1951.

(Newsphoto)

joined Kibbutz Ein Gev in 1937, they shared a room with a third party. Teddy achieved privacy by strategic placement of a huge packing crate holding cargo from abroad. The space became the Kollek's castle.

As "mukhtar" or administrative head of the kibbutz, Kollek amazed his comrades by his ingenuity in obtaining money from unsuspected sources. But he made them angry by insisting that funds must not be spent on travel when they could take their holidays walking in the vicinity of their homes.

Inevitably, Teddy's qualities were noted. In December, 1940, he was sent to Britain to help raise money for the World Zionist Organization. In London he met David Ben-Gurion, then head of the Jewish Agency. The

providential encounter led many years later to Kollek becoming director-general of the Prime Minister's Office.

Inevitably, Kollek was involved in secret contacts. He was sent, contrary to his wishes, to Istanbul, to contact British and American intelligence, while he maintained contact with the Jewish communities of Europe and channeled money to them. He traveled by rail via Aleppo, as a correspondent of the "daily newspaper *Ein Gev*." In his room in Istanbul, Teddy put up a big photo of Ein Gev and the Golan Heights.

In October, 1947, Kollek was sent to the US as head of a purchasing mission for the Hagana. A crate marked "used industrial machinery parts" burst while being loaded on a ship in New Jer-

sey and revealed TNT. Kollek managed to survive the incident and stay on, and went on to send arms from Mexican ports.

Kollek requested that a man be appointed in General Headquarters to channel all contacts with him. Hagana treasurer Levi Eshkol appointed Shimon Peres as the liaison man. "Eshkol bumped into me on a stairwell," recalls Peres, and asked whether he (Peres) knew English and had ever been to the US. The answer was "no" to both questions, says Peres. And Eshkol exclaimed: "So you're my man."

TEDDY Kollek was an uninhibited "Westerner." Ben-Gurion warned him, in 1951, during the Korean War, not to move too quickly into the West's camp. Teddy's answer was that support

from the US would be appreciated by the Israeli voter.

The minister of labor, Golda Meir, insisted Israel should remain neutral in the conflict. She shouted at Israeli officials in the US who, she alleged, had "lost their identity" and relied on "imperialist money," recalls Meir (Memmi) Deshalet, who in 1951 was first secretary at the Israeli mission in Washington.

The Americans insisted that Israel send a military contingent to Korea, and Ben-Gurion was ready to dispatch a token unit, but Kollek strongly advised against it, fearing the Soviets would halt aliya. Eventually, Kollek arranged for Ben-Gurion to visit the US and persuade Washington that Israel was not pulling out with Communists.

"Teddy never created ene-

mies; he knew how to bridge [the gap] between people," says Shimon Peres. "He was devoted to Ben-Gurion, but he also maintained contact with Golda and Moshe Sharett. He never veiled his opinions, not even from Ben-Gurion, whom he criticized severely, but Ben-Gurion loved him. Esteemed him."

When Ben-Gurion resigned, in 1956, it was inevitable that Teddy Kollek would also quit. "He did not do so for political reasons, he just wanted to manifest his support for Ben-Gurion's personality and performance," says Kolodny-Bachi. "He took a job with a commercial firm and was extremely unhappy."

After much hesitation he gave in to friends' entreaties that he run for Jerusalem mayor. Against his expectations, he won.

A robot that specializes in high-tech doodling

LOTS of artists hum while they work. Aaron also buzzes.

And rumbles.

Aaron is a computer program, and Aaron paints. A robotic arm grasps a cup and fills it with ink from a rack of 15 bottles of ink and dye. It places the cup in its holder and then grasps a metal brush with a foam pad on the end and begins to draw, traveling the length and breadth of the 2.5-sq.-m. sheet of paper to sketch out a shape.

"It looks like a fish," says a child watching Aaron, currently on display in The Computer Museum here.

"What is it drawing?" asks another child.

"Stick around," says artist Harold Cohen, watching his creation at work. "You'll see in a minute."

The arm moves below the blob and draws lines that unmistakably form an eye. The machine can paint a complete picture each day, chosen by Cohen from screen images of about 20 that Aaron has composed overnight. No two are the same.

The computer finishes its black-and-white sketch: a woman's face, pensive, perhaps sad. Behind the woman is a plant, familiar yet otherworldly, another computer creation.

Aaron places a cup under a water bottle and opens a tap to squirt water into the cup. It picks up the cup with its plastic pincers and—in a startlingly human gesture that gets a laugh from the audience—gently rocks the cup back and forth to swirl the water around before dumping it into a trough. Cohen smiles.

"Theatrics," he says.

Both the computer program and the robotic gismo that does the painting are the brainchildren of Cohen, 66, a celebrated British artist who gave up painting more than 20 years ago to see if he

could come up with a program that could create works of art. He resettled in California, where he became a professor in the visual arts department of the University of California at San Diego, and devoted his energies to the field of artificial intelligence.

Aaron is what's called a knowledge-based system. It has no camera or other visual input; all it knows about the world is what Cohen has told it. But that's plenty: For 23 years, Cohen has been refining rules that broadly determine what the program can draw, without ever telling it directly what to draw. The amount of time and effort that he has put into crafting the program make it unique, experts in artificial intelligence say.

Aaron started simply, with software that instructed a robot to draw random squiggles and then draw a line around the shapeless creation—a style of drawing Cohen had observed in children.

Based entirely on his own experience as an artist, Cohen then began to describe boundaries, giving the machine rules about the world that its creations could not violate: A face has two eyes and one nose, not the other way around; a nose "can be short or it can be long, but it cannot be too short or too long."

The program had to learn how the parts of the body fit together and what sort of postures a body can and cannot assume. It was instructed that placing one object in front of another will hide the object behind. These are the sort of rules that crayon-wielding children work out on their own, but that a computer must be taught in painstaking detail.

Cohen said there are 4,000 artistic rules in the program simply for drawing a head.

In 1989, Cohen decided to up the ante by teaching his program

**JOHN SCHWARTZ
BOSTON**

ing up with a new set of rules—the kind of guidelines that tell us not to wear brown shoes with a blue suit, but encompassing Cohen's own aesthetic. "The whole question of color is the hardest thing I've ever done," he said, because it involved "trying to figure out what I would do myself" in choosing colors for a painting. The key, he decided, was not to worry about getting the computer to match hues perfectly, but to concentrate on the brightness of each color—a lesson he had learned as a young painter.

Of course, Aaron is still a program, and unlike some artificial intelligence (AI) creations, has no capacity to learn something new on its own. It can draw an

infinite variety of faces, but unless Cohen writes more software, Aaron will never draw a child, or a cow. "I have got enough trouble with two-legged animals, thank you," Cohen said. "Would anything be appreciably better if it knew how to draw a telephone? The answer is no."

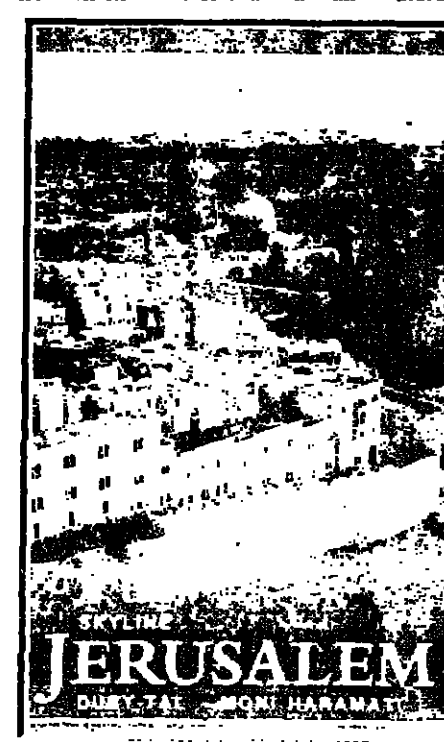
Many people who see Aaron at work doubt that the computer is really working on its own; they look for the man behind the curtain. "I dare not sit down at the keyboard while everyone is watching this," Cohen said, for fear that people will assume he is directing the action. He noted that he hasn't drawn in years. "The machine draws much better than I do."

"I am constantly being asked whether I am a scientist or an artist," Cohen added, "as if there's a law that says I can't be

both." But is it art? Although Aaron's works have been sold in galleries, the critical community doesn't want to believe that real art can come from a computer, Cohen says.

Could what Aaron does be called "thinking"? Pamela McCorduck, author of several books about computing and artificial intelligence (including a book about Aaron) calls herself "an agnostic" on the issue of whether it's thinking, and of whether AI is thinking.

McCorduck, who owns original Aarons, said the robotic artist "is a machine. No question. It doesn't dress up and go to parties, it doesn't kiss you on the cheek, it doesn't suck up to wealthy donors. It is a machine. And it does it very, very well." (The Washington Post)



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Publisher Nimrodi, Ronen under house arrest

RAINE MARCUS

MA'ARIV publisher and editor Ofer Nimrodi and his security officer David Ronen were placed under house arrest Friday until this Tuesday by a Petah Tikva Magistrate's Court judge after a week in custody.

Bail was set at NIS 250,000 each, and they have been barred from leaving the country.

Nimrodi has been summoned to appear for additional questioning this morning at the National Crime Squad headquarters.

Nimrodi and Ronen were arrested along with others last Saturday on suspicion of commissioning wide-scale wiretapping and paying private investigators Rafi Friedman and Ya'acov Tsur - who has since turned state's witness and has provided police with information incriminating Nimrodi, Ronen and others - a large sum of money to keep quiet.

Friedman's lawyer, Motti Katz, is also under house arrest, but the three, together with others suspected of wiretapping and obstructing justice, can expect to be summoned for intensive and prolonged questioning this coming week.

Yedioth Aharonot editor Moshe Vardi, released on Thursday after 48 hours in custody, was also questioned over the bugging of graphic artist Orit Lipshitz, police sources said. Vardi was originally investigated on suspicion of bugging Yedioth's former editor in chief, Dov Yudevsky, before the latter moved to Ma'ariv.

But police said they do not have sufficient evidence to indict on this specific charge, and that Vardi was merely questioned, contrary to information broadcast on ITN Channel 1's Mabat Friday night newsreel.

Private investigator Eli Gershoni, also under house arrest and who declared on his release from custody that he has information incriminating Inspector General Asaf Hefetz in wiretapping offenses some 10 years ago, has postponed a news conference he planned to convene at his Kichav Yair home. Police said the conference would contravene the conditions of his release set by the court.

Gershoni also said that Tsur turned state's witness in order not to "involve family members" in the media wiretapping affair. Police now believe that suspects implicated by Tsur will now mount a campaign to blacken his name and to discredit his testimony.



Ofer Nimrodi and his wife exit the Petah Tikva police station on Friday. He and his security chief, David Ronen, have been placed under house arrest until Tuesday. (Ofira Yochanan/TPA)

Policeman grabs live grenade to prevent suicide

DAVID RUDGE

A SENIOR police officer prevented an army reservist from committing suicide at his home in Hatzor near Rosh Pina on Friday by grabbing a live grenade from the man's hands.

The reservist, age 30, had already pulled the pin on the hand grenade and was about to release the catch that would have detonated it when the officer pounced.

The officer, Supt. S., head of the Galilee district's sapper unit, managed to hold onto the man and remove the grenade from his grasp. The grenade was later neutralized.

The drama began just after midday on Friday when police were informed that a man armed with a rifle had barricaded himself in his home in Hatzor, spread kerosene around the apartment, and was threatening to kill himself.

The head of the Rosh Pina police station, Supt. Robert Shalom, tried to persuade the man to hand over his rifle, and in the process discovered that he also had two hand grenades, one of which he kept in his hands.

A large force of police, border policemen, sappers and a special negotiating team led by Northern Region chief Cmdr. Amos Azani and head of the Galilee district Dep-Cmdr. Moshe Goldgart, went to the scene.

The spokesman for the Galilee district said that while on reserve duty, the man had threatened he would kill his wife who was trying to divorce him.

IDF officials heard of the man's threats and took away his rifle on Thursday. But the following day it was discovered that he had left his base, having taken the rifle of another soldier with him.

Police were informed, and the man's wife was taken into protective custody and kept hidden until he could be traced.

The reservist returned to his home in Hatzor, and finding that his wife was not there, threatened to kill himself. After three hours of negotiations, he finally agreed to surrender his rifle, and was about to give himself up when he apparently underwent another change of heart and took the pin out of the hand grenade he was still holding.

After being safely disarmed by the sapper unit officer, the man was taken under escort to hospital for treatment and then to the Kishon lock-up pending a remand hearing today.

Children's month begins today

BATSHEVA TSUR

CHILDREN and Youth Month begins today with a festive ceremony at Beit Hanassi under the patronage of Reuma Weizman.

Under the slogan "Towards a Sweeter Future," the events during the month will stress the role of youth in helping the underprivileged, particularly blind children and new immigrants, as well as teaching them the importance of the peace process.

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Helmuth Rilling, conductor, Singers and Gächinger Kantorei from Stuttgart.

Programme: Rindels: Dixi Dominus; Mozart: Mass in c minor ("The Great").

Concert no. 7: Sun. 20.45, 8.30 p.m. Herta and Paul Amirson Theatre, 100, 105, 110 p.m. Herta and Paul Amirson Theatre, 100, 105, 110 p.m.

Jun'ichi Hirokami, conductor, Maria João Pires, pianist.

Programme: Naxos: Introduction and 3 Interludes for orchestra; Mozart: Piano concerto no. 20, K. 460; Schumann: Symphony no. 1 ("Spring").

Concert no. 9: Sat. 6.55, 9.10 p.m. T.A. Scharoun Hall, 100, 105, 110 p.m.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Galilee rappeller plucked to safety

A 20-year-old woman from Hadera suffered back and leg injuries after slipping and falling 20 meters down a cliff face into a valley in the Keshet Caves area not far from Kibbutz Adamit in the western Galilee yesterday.

She was brought to safety by members of the Golan mountain rescue team and later evacuated to Haifa's Rambam Hospital by an IAF helicopter.

Police raid drug party

Netanya police raided a drug party being held in a wooded area near Nahal Alexander in the Shomron late Friday night, arresting 26 revelers aged 19 to 23, including four soldiers.

The drugs found on the scene included hashish, marijuana, and Ecstasy tablets. All of those arrested were released except for the party organizers. The soldiers were transferred to the custody of the Military Police.

Tel Aviv judge's car vandalized

Police have arrested a couple on suspicion of damaging the car of Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court Judge Edna Beckenstein in an attempt to get her removed from a case involving the husband, and to slow the legal process.

According to the remand request, the two vandalized Beckenstein's car in the court parking lot on February 21 and have admitted to the charges.

The court released the two, Yehuda and Bosmat Yitzhaki, on NIS 9,000 bail Thursday, and forbade them to have contact with each other or other people involved in the case.

'Yisrael Shelanu' editor held over Itim suit

The chief editor of the New York-based Hebrew daily Yisrael Shelanu, Shmuel Shmueli, may not leave the country until a NIS 300,000 law suit is settled with the Itim news agency regarding the unauthorized use of its news items, the Kfar Sava Bailiff's Office ruled.

A year ago, the Kfar Sava Magistrate's Court determined that the paper and Shmueli had violated Itim's copyright, and ordered him to pay the sum. But Shmueli did not pay the compensation and left the country. When Itim learned that Shmueli had arrived here, it asked the court to prevent him from leaving the country.

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the ace of spades, eight of hearts, king of diamonds, and nine of clubs.

Karmiel murder suspect tries to hang himself in cell

DAVID RUDGE

A KARMIEL man, who was arrested last week with his wife and another woman on suspicion of killing a local resident, tried to hang himself in his cell at the Karmiel police station early yesterday morning.

Avi Azulai, 26, who on Friday was remanded for five days in connection with the murder of Sarah Nahum, 61, was prevented from committing suicide by guards who had been alerted by other detainees.

He was later taken to the Kishon lockup, and was ordered kept under close observation.

The spokesman for the Galilee district police said Azulai was arrested on Thursday, the day after Nahum, known for her volunteer work with ex-prisoners and the needy, was found dead in her burn-

ing apartment in Karmiel. She had been strangled and the flat set on fire.

The spokesman said that during the course of the day, Azulai began to cooperate with police and in his statements also linked his wife, Etie, aged 24, and her friend, a 30-year-old Karmiel woman, to the murder.

They were also arrested. On Friday evening all took part in recreating the crime for police.

The spokesman said that two other men who had originally been detained in connection with the murder, Mustafa Mansour, 38, from Karkab in the Galilee, and a 27-year-old man from Saknin, were released from custody on Friday morning.

Farmer attacked by swarm of bees

DAVID RUDGE

A FARMER was still recovering in the intensive care unit of Safed's Rebecca Sieff Hospital yesterday after being attacked by a swarm of bees on Friday and stung more than 60 times.

Asher Sofer, 34, of Moshav Alma, near Safed, was in critical condition when brought to the hospital on Friday morning following the attack, said Dr. Calin Shapiro, deputy director of the hospital.

"He was badly swollen on the face, head, neck, and hands from dozens of bee stings and was only semi-conscious," said Shapiro.

Sofer later recovered sufficiently

to be able to tell what had happened.

He had been working with his tractor in fields near his moshav when he was suddenly surrounded by the bees. They had apparently come from nearby beehives which had been accidentally knocked over.

Sofer jumped from his tractor and ran to the main road nearby, still covered with bees, and flagged down a passing truck before fainting.

He was taken to the moshav a from there driven to the hospital. Shapiro said Sofer is responding to treatment and the swellings gradually subsiding.

WJC to press Clinton on property issue

NEW YORK (Reuters) - World Jewish Congress president Edgar Bronfman will ask President Bill Clinton today to press Eastern European countries to speed up the process of restoring Jewish property seized by the Communists, a spokesman said.

The spokesman said Bronfman, chairman of the giant Seagram conglomerate, will ask Clinton to ensure that the property is returned when the president attends a WJC dinner honoring its leader in New York today.

Earlier this month, eight powerful Congressional leaders, including House Speaker Newt Gingrich and Senate Majority leader Robert Dole, warned east European governments that relations with Washington could suffer unless Jewish property confiscated by Communist governments is returned.

In a letter to US Secretary of State Warren Christopher, the eight said the response of the 13 east European governments "could have practical consequences on their relations with our country."

The countries named were Belarus, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldavia, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, and Ukraine. They were accused of either stalling the process of restitution or obstructing it.

At the dinner, Clinton will be presented with the Nahum Goldmann Medal, named after the founder of the World Jewish Congress.

Mormon Church will stop baptizing Holocaust dead

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) - The Mormon Church reached an agreement with five major Jewish groups Friday to stop posthumous baptisms for victims of the Holocaust.

Baptizing for the dead is a central tenet of the Mormon Church, which believes the practice gives every spirit a chance to accept or reject baptism in the "true Church of Jesus Christ."

Ernest W. Michel, chairman of the World Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, said the issue came to his group's attention when a Jewish newspaper mentioned that a Jew killed in the Gurs, France, concentration camp had been baptized posthumously into the Mormon Church.

"I am a Holocaust survivor and I found my grandmother, uncles, aunts and friends had been baptized," Michel said. "That, to me, I found totally unacceptable. I was incensed when I found out about it."

The Mormon Church's ruling three-member First Presidency directed members in March 1991 to stop baptizing Holocaust victims, but the ban was violated, said Elder Monte J. Brown, executive director of the Family History Department. He is a member of the Presidency of the Seventy, the governing body of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Several months of recent talks led to Friday's agreement between the Mormon Church, Michel's group, the United States Holocaust Memorial Council in Washington; A Living Memorial to the Holocaust-Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City; the Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles; and Yad Vashem.

The Mormon Church agreed to direct all of its officials and members to discontinue future baptisms of deceased Jews, except those who are ancestors of living church members or whose families give permission.

It also agreed to remove from the next issue of its International Genealogical Index the names of all known posthumously baptized Jewish Holocaust victims who are not direct ancestors of living church members.

The Mormon Church will continue to make its family history records - among the world's most extensive - available to the public regardless of religious or ethnic affiliations.

Rabbi Baker praised President Thomas Klestil for his speech to parliament on Thursday to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, in which he said Austria bore a responsibility for fighting alongside Nazi Germany.

The survey said a further troubling finding was a high proportion of Haider supporters, 17%, who agreed that it seemed "possible that the Nazi extermination camps never happened." The figure was just 5% among Austrians in general. It is illegal in Austria to deny the Holocaust.

Rabbi Baker praised President Thomas Klestil for his speech to parliament on Thursday to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, in which he said Austria bore a responsibility for fighting alongside Nazi Germany.

US defense official visits next week

US Deputy Defense Secretary for Purchases and Technology Paul Kaminsky will visit here from May 9 to 14.

He will be the guest of Defense Ministry Director-General David Ivry.

Kaminsky will meet with Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, and senior defense and security officials.

He will also tour IDF installations, Israel Aircraft Industries, Elbit, Rafael, and Jerusalem. Itim

AJC: Austrian antisemitism less marked than 4 years ago

VIENNA (Reuters) - Austrian attitudes towards Jews have improved over the past four years but antisemitic sentiment is widespread among supporters of the far-right Freedom party, American Jewish leaders said on Friday.

The New York-based American Jewish Committee (AJC) issued the findings of a nationwide poll, one of the most comprehensive surveys of Austrians' feelings towards Jews and minorities.

Compared with a similar AJC study in 1991, fewer Austrians are today hostile towards Jews. But more, especially far-right voters, bear prejudice against Turks, Serbs, Croats and gypsies.

"The success of the Freedom party worries the committee," AJC director of European affairs Rabbi Andrew Baker told Reuters in Vienna, where the poll was released.

"Although the majority of its supporters are not right-wingers,

it's disturbing that antisemites are able to find a home in this party," he added.

The far-right, led by populist Joerg Haider, won 23 percent of the vote in Austria's general election last October, making it the most successful far-right grouping in Europe.

The AJC said those results posed "a grave danger for Jews."

Its director of research, David Singer, told a news conference the AJC was concerned by the "willingness of numerous Austrians, themselves ostensibly free of anti-Jewish hostility, to support a political party that has become a home base for antisemites."

"Without wanting to sound apocalyptic, it should be remembered that the majority of Germans did not vote for the Nazi party because they were antisemitic," he added.

The survey, conducted by Austria's Gallup Institute, found that 27% of Austrians believe "now,

as in the past, Jews exert too much influence on world events." That figure was 10% lower than in 1991.

Among Freedom party supporters, however, 41% agreed with the proposition. Gallup interviewed 2,000 people from the age of 14 upwards between January 17 and March 1 this year.

The committee has commissioned similar polls in Australia, Britain, France, Germany, Poland and the United States.

The survey said a further trou-

bling finding was a high proportion of Haider supporters, 17%, who agreed that it seemed "possible that the Nazi extermination camps never happened." The figure was just 5% among Austrians in general. It is illegal in Austria to deny the Holocaust.

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